



REFERENCE

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AFRICA

D
410
K42
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1993

Nigeria: military takeover

39718

• also including South African Interim Constitution • new CAR government • Equatorial Guinea: general election • Chad: new government • Somalia: reversal of UN policy • Kenya: resumption of international aid • Tanzania: moves towards separate Tanganyika government • restoration of Burundi government • Uganda: return of Okello • new Swazi government • Angola agreement on troop withdrawal • OAU meeting

AMERICAS

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REF

United States: gubernatorial and mayoral elections

39726

• also including resignation of US Deputy Secretary of State, enactment of "Brady bill" • new Canadian government • NAFTA: US congressional approval • Cuba: UN vote on US embargo • Haiti: non-return of Aristide • Jamaica: Privy Council commuting of death sentence • Honduras: elections • Nicaragua: inter-party agreements on constitutional reforms • Peru: constitutional referendum • Argentina: "Democratic Pact"

ASIA-PACIFIC

China: adoption of new reform document

39735

• also including Pakistan: election of President • Japan: approval of political reform bill • Afghanistan: anti-terrorist agreement with Egypt • Cambodia: installation of Royal Government • Vietnam aid conference • New Zealand general election • APEC meeting

EUROPE

Bosnia: resumption of negotiations

39743

• also including Croatia: Tudjman peace initiative • Yugoslavia: crackdown on ultra-nationalists • CIS: collapse of rouble zone • Russian draft constitution, new military doctrine • Georgia: arrival of Russian troops • Ukraine: economic crisis • European Union: entry into force of Maastricht Treaty • Italian municipal elections • France: constitutional amendment on asylum law • Northern Ireland: contacts with IRA • Turkey: measures against Kurdish separatists • inauguration of Eurocorps

MIDDLE EAST - ARAB WORLD

Israeli-Palestinian negotiations

39756

• also including defeat of Kollek in Jerusalem election • Jordan: legislative elections • Yemen: north-south crisis • Libya: UN imposition of tougher sanctions • Algeria: attacks on foreigners • new Moroccan government • GCC meeting on Peninsular Shield Force

INTERNATIONAL

GATT: EU-US talks

39761

• also including OPEC meeting • Ukrainian ratification of START I • dismantling of COCOM • UN 1994-95 programme budget • UNHCR report on world refugees • agreement to halt nuclear dumping at sea

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AFRICA

NIGERIA

Military takeover

On Nov. 17, after an 82-day period of civilian rule, albeit by a non-elected administration, Nigeria came once again under the control of the military. The Defence Minister, Gen. Sanni Abacha, took over as head of state, having forced the resignation of Chief Ernest Adegunle Shonekan, head of the Interim National Government (ING).

Abacha's takeover confirmed the belief that he had been in effective control of the government since the resignation of President Ibrahim Babangida in August [see pp. 39582; 39624-25]. Abacha had been a key player both in the 1983 coup, which brought an end to the 1979-83 Second Republic civilian government of Shehu Shagari [see p. 32841], and in the 1985 military putsch which installed Babangida as head of state and himself as Babangida's deputy [see p. 33957].

Shonekan's short-lived ING administration had been dogged by problems since its installation in August [see pp. 39582; 39624-25], and in the days preceding the coup the beleaguered Shonekan had come under increasing pressure.

On Nov. 8 his government had provoked a storm of protest by withdrawing the state subsidies on petrol, effectively multiplying the price more than sevenfold (from the equivalent of 2.8 US cents to 20 US cents a litre). Protesters took to the streets demanding Shonekan's resignation, and on Nov. 15 the Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC) announced a general strike starting on Nov. 17 in protest at the increase.

Shonekan had also faced a serious constitutional crisis when on Nov. 10 the Lagos High Court, in a case brought by Moshood Kashimawo Olawale "MKO" Abiola, the presumed winner of the aborted June presidential elections [see p. 39494], ruled that the ING was unconstitutional and illegal. It also became clear by Nov. 15 that Shonekan's plans to hold fresh elections on Feb. 19, 1994, were not viable after a voter registration campaign met with a complete boycott in the south-west, a stronghold of Abiola.

Late on Nov. 17, following a four-hour meeting with Abacha and other senior military figures, Shonekan announced his resignation as head of state and commander-in-chief of the armed forces. Abacha immediately took over both positions.

Dismantling of administrative and legislative structures

Addressing the country for the first time on Nov. 18 Abacha announced the immediate dissolution of the main organs of the state and the establishment of a Provisional Ruling Council (PRC) which would be composed of senior military figures and key members of

the Federal Executive (Council FEC—the Cabinet). He gave no indication of how long he intended to stay in power.

Abacha dissolved the ING, the National Assembly (the Senate and the House of Representatives), and all other bodies elected under the Babangida regime's managed process of gradual transition to democratic rule. The 30 elected state governors were dismissed and replaced by senior military or police officers. The National Election Commission was dissolved. The two-party political structure created by Babangida was abolished with the banning of the Social Democratic Party and the National Republican Convention (NRC), and the prohibition of all political activity.

Responding to the general strike paralysing the country, Abacha urged the trade unions to return to work immediately. He lifted the bans on media houses imposed in July [see p. 39544] but warned the media to be careful in its reporting.

Finally he promised to establish a constitutional conference with full constituent powers to determine the future constitution of the country, although he did not say when it would begin its work.

Domestic reaction

In a broadcast on Nov. 19 Abacha warned that he would not tolerate any dissent. His threat was taken seriously by the Campaign for Democracy (CD), which, while condemning the coup, urged people to stay indoors. Banks, factories and major shops remained shut and Lagos, still affected by the general strike against the fuel increase, was quiet.

Although some pro-democracy campaigners in the south-west took to the streets on Nov. 19, clashing with the police, by the end of the month there was little evidence of anti-government demonstrations. Abacha's position was further consolidated on Nov. 21 when the NLC agreed to call off the general strike after the new regime agreed to reduce the scale of the fuel price increase.

New government

On Nov. 21 Abacha signed a decree restoring the 1979 Constitution (Second Republic) and formally establishing the PRC. The membership of both the PRC and FEC was announced on Nov. 24. In an apparent attempt to undermine the efforts of pro-democracy campaigners and to counter international condemnation of the coup, the new government included several prominent supporters of Abiola.

Baba Gana Kingibe, Abiola's running-mate in the aborted June elections [see p. 39448], was named as a member of the PRC and as Foreign Minister; Olu Onagoruwa, a leading pro-democracy campaigner and lawyer, was appointed Minister of Justice and to the PRC; and Alex Ibru, the proprietor of one of the country's leading independent newspapers, was also appointed to the PRC and named as Minister of the Interior. The FEC also included Ada Adogu, former chair of the disbanded NRC, Iyorchia Ayu, the former Senate president, and several figures from the Second Republic. Cit-

New Nigerian Government

Gen. Sanni Abacha Head of Government;
Commander-in-Chief of Armed Forces;
Minister of Defence; Chairman of PRC
and FEC

Provisional Ruling Council

Lt.-Gen. D. O. Diya (Vice-Chairman of PRC; Chief of General Staff); Maj.-Gen. Abdu Salam Abubakar (Chief of Defence Staff); Brig.-Gen. Mohamed Chris Ali (Chief of Army Staff); Rear-Adml. Allison Madueke (Chief of Naval Staff); Air Vice-Marshal John Femi (Chief of Air Staff); Alhaji Kumasie (Inspector of Police); Ismaila Gwarzo (National Security Adviser); Baba Gana Kingibe; Alex Ibru; Olu Onagoruwa.

Federal Executive Council

Lt.-Gen. D. O. Diya Vice-Chairman of Federal Executive Council
Lt.-Gen. J. Oseni Federal Capital Territory
Iyorchia Ayu Education
Bamanga Tukur Industries
*Lateef Jakande Works and Housing
Kalu Idika Kalu Finance
*Don Etiebet Petroleum Resources
*Bashir Dalhatu Power and Steel
Sarki Tafida Health and Human Resources
Baba Gana Kingibe Foreign Affairs
Alex Ibru Internal Affairs
*Abubakar Rimi Communication
Samuel Ogbemudia Labour and Productivity
Adamu Ciroma Agriculture
*Jerry Gana Information
Olu Onagoruwa Justice; Attorney-General
*Chief Melford Okilo Commerce and Tourism
Chief E. Babatope Transport and Aviation
*Isa Mohammed Water Resources
Lazarus Unagu Science and Technology
*Solomon Lar Police Affairs
Mohammed Anka Local Government Affairs
Chief S. B. Daniyan National Planning
Mobolaji Osomo (f) Establishment Management Services
Umaru Baba Minister of State in charge of Petroleum Resources
Silas Ilo Minister of State in charge of Health
Ada Adoyu (f) Minister of State in charge of Agriculture
A. B. Yahaya Minister of State in charge of Transport and Aviation
*Member of Shonekan's ING.
*Held authority under the Second Republic (1979-83).
Women are denoted by (f).

ing the appointment of these people as well as four former members of the defunct ING, Abacha insisted that he was serious about returning power to civilians.

Position of Abiola

Disappointing his supporters, Abiola did not comment on the coup other than to describe it as an "act of God", and on Nov. 22 he met with Abacha;

details of their discussion were not made public. He appeared ambivalent about the co-opting of his supporters by the new regime, saying that those who thought they were serving their country should do so, although he stressed that any form of democracy was preferable to a military regime.

■ Last article p. 39673-74; reference article p. R18.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

New government

A new coalition Cabinet was announced on Oct. 30 by Jean-Luc Mandaba, who had been appointed as Prime Minister by President Ange-Felix Patasse on Oct. 25 [see p. 39673]. Its 17 members were drawn from his Central African People's Liberation Party (MPLC, the largest party in the National Assembly following the legislative elections in August and September—see pp. 39583-84; 39624; 39673), the Liberal Democratic Party, the Alliance for Democracy and Progress, the David Dacko movement, and the outgoing administration of Gen. André Kolingba.

Key portfolios were given to Simon Bedaya-Ngaro and Claude Dobango, who were named as Foreign Minister and Minister for Relations with Francophone Countries, and Minister of the Interior and National Security respectively. Emmanuel Dokouma retained the Finance portfolio and also took on Planning and International Co-operation; Jacques Bosso remained Minister of Justice and Keeper of the Seals and took on responsibility for Law Reform; and Gerard Gaba, Minister of the Interior in the previous Cabinet, was named as Minister in charge of the Secretariat General of Government and Relations with Parliament. The new government included two women: Simone Bodemon as Minister of Education and Marie Noelle Koyara as Minister for Social Action and Promoting Women's Rights.

Status of Bokassa

On Nov. 5 Jean-Bedel Bokassa, the former self-styled Emperor, was stripped of the rank of marshal and demoted to that of private and evicted from the quarters in the presidential palace which he had occupied since his release from prison in September [see p. 39624].

A legal adviser to President Patasse sent a letter refusing Bokassa's request for the restoration of his property, reminding him that he remained subject to certain permanent restrictions, namely bans on voting, standing for election, working in the civil service, carrying arms, or acting as an arbitrator; and informing him that he could not use any of the emblems or the acronyms of the Central African Empire.

■ Last article p. 39673; reference article p. R7.

CONGO

Renewed unrest

Political violence erupted again in Brazzaville in November, with up to 41 people reported

killed in a series of clashes between the army and armed supporters of the opposition coalition Union for Democratic Renewal—Congolesse Labour Party (URD-PCT). Clashes arising from the controversial election process in June and July had caused about 30 deaths [see pp. 39495-96; 39543-44].

The clashes were concentrated in the Baongo district of the capital, a stronghold of URD leader Bernard Kolelas and home of former President Denis Sassou-Nguesso. The first serious incidents were reported on Nov. 2, when two senior government officials were held hostage for 24 hours apparently on the orders of Kolelas. On Nov. 3 a routine army patrol in Baongo was attacked, after which the situation appeared to deteriorate rapidly; by the end of the day 25 people were reported dead. With troops deployed in "sensitive areas" of Baongo from Nov. 4, over the next three weeks clashes were reported almost every day. On Nov. 7 the authorities in Zaire expressed outrage after shells fired from Brazzaville fell on Kinshasa, on the other side of the River Congo.

A lull in the fighting was reported on Nov. 30 following an agreement on Nov. 26 signed by Prime Minister Jacques-Joachim Yhombi-Opango and by Jean-Pierre Thystere-Tchikaya, vice-president of the Rally for Democracy and Social Progress (RDPS) and representing the opposition, to end the fighting.

■ Last article p. 39673; reference article p. R8.

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

General election

The ruling Democratic Party of Equatorial Guinea (PDGE) claimed victory in the country's first multiparty legislative elections on Nov. 21. However, the polls were described as a "farce" by opposition politicians and foreign diplomats.

According to figures released by the National Electoral Board the PDGE took 68 of the 80 seats in the National Assembly, while the People's Social Democratic Convention (CSDP) took six, the Social Democratic Union (UDS) five, and the Liberal Party the remaining one. No official figures were given for voter participation. The Joint Opposition Platform (POC), an alliance of eight opposition parties, claimed that the abstention rate was 80 per cent. The organization had called for a boycott of the election on Nov. 6 when it became apparent that the government would not accede to their demands for the preparation of an accurate electoral roll and the right to campaign without harassment. In a statement issued on Nov. 23 in which it described the elections as a "slap in the face to the dictatorship", the POC asked the international community to suspend co-operation and to isolate the regime of President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo.

On Nov. 20 the US State Department described the elections as a "parody of democracy", while on Nov. 22 the Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana Madariaga said that the elections had not met the "minimum requirements of objectivity and democratic participation" and that the terms of Spanish aid would be reconsidered before the end of the year. The Malabo authorities reacted angrily, accusing both governments of interfering in the coun-

try's internal affairs. It also accused the US ambassador John E. Bennett of witchcraft. This charge was apparently made by Capt. Manuel Nguema Mba, Secretary of State for National Security, who told journalists that the ambassador had taken "traditional medicine given to him by election-boycotting opposition parties so the vote would come out badly".

■ Last article p. 39673; reference article pp. R9-10.

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Tension with Ghana over soccer violence

Relations with Ghana deteriorated after 35 people, mostly Ghanaians, died in riots which erupted in Abidjan in early November.

The violence, which forced almost 9,000 Ghanaians to flee from Côte d'Ivoire, was said to have been triggered by assaults on Ivorian soccer fans attending an African Champions' Cup match in Ghana on Nov. 1. Reports said that the returning fans had retaliated by attacking Ghanians living in Côte d'Ivoire.

■ Last article pp. 39354; 39500; 39676; reference article pp. R8-9.

LIBERIA

Delay in transition process

Delays in the implementation of a disarmament process agreed under the Cotonou peace treaty in July [see p. 39545] continued to hold up the installation of the intended new five-member executive Council of State. As of Nov. 30, interim President Amos Sawyer had yet to relinquish power to this new body, which was charged under the Cotonou agreement with leading the country to elections in February 1994 [see pp. 39582-83].

The transition process was also hampered by the failure of the three factions in the civil war to agree on the distribution of portfolios in a new transitional government. At a meeting hosted by President Nicéphore Soglo of Benin in Cotonou on Nov. 3 they appeared to have agreed on the allocation of a number of posts; several key portfolios remained undecided, however, including Defence, Foreign Affairs, Justice, and Finance.

On Nov. 13 the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) accused the interim administration of attempting to slow down the transition further still, after it replaced Bismark Kuyon as Chair of the Council of State [see pp. 39582-83] with Philip Banks, Minister of Justice in the interim government. The Sawyer administration denied these allegations, and noted that the NPFL had itself changed one of its own nominees on the Council—Gen. Isaac Mousa having replaced Dorothy Musuleng-Cooper as First Deputy Chair earlier in the month.

■ Last article p. 39625; reference article p. R14.

MAURITANIA

Cabinet reshuffle

Prime Minister Sidi Mohammed Ould Boubaker made a number of Cabinet changes on Nov. 9.

Mohammed Abdrahmane Ould Moine was replaced as Minister of Foreign Affairs and Co-operation by Mohammed Salem Ould Lekhel who had previously served as Finance Minister until 1987. Mohamed Lemine Salem Ould Dah took over at the Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Economy; his predecessor Abdallahi Ould Abdi was appointed Minister of Civil Service, Labour, Youth and Sports, replacing Mokhtar Ould Haye who was in turn named as Minister of National Education. This post had been made vacant by the appointment of Sghaier Ould M'bareck as the Minister of Rural Development to replace the dismissed Mouloud Ould Sidi Abdallah. Mohammed Ould Lamar replaced Ahmed Ould Ghanahallah as Minister of Health and Social Affairs, with his previous responsibilities at the Ministry of Equipment and Transport being assigned to Diagana Moussa, hitherto Minister of Trade, Handicrafts and Tourism; Cheikh Malainine Ould Ch'bih took over Moussa's portfolios. Finally, Cheikh Ould Ali, hitherto Secretary of State for Maghreb Affairs, took on responsibility for Literacy and Traditional Education from the dismissed Khattri Ould Taleb Jiddou.

Date for municipal elections

On Nov. 17 the Cabinet approved Jan. 28, 1994, as the date for municipal elections, which had been expected before the end of 1993 [see p. 39259].

■ Last article pp. 39259; 39452; 39500; 39629; reference article pp. R15-16.

MALI

Suspension of IMF and World Bank aid

It was reported on Nov. 7 that the IMF and World Bank had decided to suspend aid to Mali, only two months after signing a funding agreement under which 125,000 million CFA francs of investment aid would have been provided over four years.

The decision was taken following the revelation that the country's budget deficit had risen to 30,000 million CFA francs. The rise was attributed to extra-budgetary expenditure to meet a 50 per cent fall in fiscal revenue as a result of fraud, as well as the cost of meeting public-sector wage demands which had not been anticipated. The World Bank demanded that austerity measures be implemented to increase fiscal revenue by 5,000 million CFA francs and to reduce expenditure by 2,000 million CFA francs.

Cabinet changes

In a move thought to be related to the action by the IMF and World Bank, President Alpha Konare made a number of changes to the Cabinet, including reducing the size of the government and dismissing the Minister of

New Mali Cabinet

Abdoulaye Sekou Sow Prime Minister,
Head of Government

*Djounkouma Traore Minister of State for
Defence and for Mines

*Yoro Diakite Energy and Hydraulics

*Lt.-Col. Sada Samake Territorial
Administration and Security

*Soumeyla Cisse Finance

*Ibrahim Boubakar Keita Foreign Affairs,
Maliens Abroad and African Integration

Mohamed Ag Erlaf Environment

Maj. Modibi Sidibe Health, Solidarity and
the Elderly

*Fatou Haidara (f) Cottage Industry and
Tourism

Boubacar Sadassi Rural Development

Adboulaye Diop Construction, Urban
Development and Housing

Amadou Dibate Justice

*Ousmane Oumarou Sidibe Employment,
Civil Service and Labour

*Mamadou Bamou Toure Secondary and
Higher Education and Scientific Research

Cheikna Kmissoko Culture and
Communications

*Bakary Konimba Traore Commerce,
Industry and Transport; Government
Spokesman

*Adama Sammassekou Basic Education

*Ahmed al-Madani Diallo
Secretary-General to the Presidency

*New appointment.

*Altered portfolio.

Economy, Finance and Planning, Mahamar Oumar Maiga. Although the President's Alliance for Democracy in Mali (ADEMA) continued to dominate the coalition, two of its hitherto most influential members, Mohammed Lamine Traore (Minister of State for Territorial Administration and Decentralization) and Samba Sidibe (Transport), were among the eight ministers to lose their posts.

■ Last article p. 39402; reference article p. R15.

NIGER

Impasse in peace process

Reports in mid-November suggested an impasse in peace talks between the government and Tuareg rebel factions. Problems were said to have emerged after two factions, the Front for the Liberation of Air and Azawad (FLAA) and the newly formed Front for the Liberation of Tamoust (FLT) [see pp. 39545; 39626], differed over the conduct of the negotiations.

According to a report from Radio France Internationale of Nov. 16, talks in Ouagadougou, Burkina, between the government and rebel factions, scheduled to have started on Nov. 11, were postponed when mediators failed to persuade rival factions to attend the talks. Simultaneous reports said that French mediators had pulled out of the peace process

after blaming the deadlock on personal rivalry between FLAA leader Rissa Boula and the leader of the FLT, Mano Dayak.

In early November the FLAA and the Revolutionary Army of the Liberation of Northern Niger [see p. 39495] had announced that they had suspended contacts with the government in protest against its failure to attend recent peace talks scheduled to take place in Algiers. The FLT, on the other hand, indicated that it wished to retain contacts with the government.

■ Last article p. 39626; reference article pp. R17-18.

CHAD

New Prime Minister

On Nov. 6 Delwa Kassire Koumakoye was elected Prime Minister of the transitional government by members of the Higher Transitional Council (CST—transitional legislature). His election followed the resignation of Fidèle Moungar in October [see p. 39674].

Koumakoye, who had been Minister of Justice in the Moungar administration, said that he hoped to work with President Idriss Déby during the transition to democracy. He listed his main aims as the continuation of the reduction of the army, the signing of a social pact with the trade unions, the preparation of elections scheduled for 1994, and national reconciliation through talks with the armed opposition.

New Chadian Cabinet

*Delwa Kassire Koumakoye Prime Minister

*Pakabi Lokna Foreign Affairs

Ali Djalbor Interior and Security

*Maj. Loum Hinassou Laina Justice and
Keeper of the Seals

Abdelkader Wadal Kamougue Civil
Service and Labour

*Bambe Laouguere Public Works and
Transport

Amos Reoulengar Finance and Computer
Science

Mahamet Saleh Ahmat Agriculture

Ibn Oumar Mahamat Saleh Planning and
Co-operation

*Mahamat Saleh Allabo Public Health

*Pierre Gali Gatte Ngothe National
Education, Culture, Youth and Sports

*Mahamat Ahmat Soukou Animal Breeding
and Water Resources

*Lardevou Djene Communication

*Abderahmane Izo Miskine Economy,
Finance and Tourism

*Chambio Andakatou Simlak Mines,
Energy and Petroleum

Bintou Malloum (f) Women's Promotion
and Social Welfare

*Mamadou Wobi Minister-Delegate to the
Presidency in charge of National Defence,
War Veterans and Victims

*Altered portfolio.

*New appointment.

Koumakoye appointed his Cabinet on Nov. 14; it included nine members of the outgoing administration. Although several anti-Déby figures were named, it remained dominated by the President's Patriotic Salvation Movement.

■ Last article p. 39674; reference article pp. R7-8.

SUDAN

Promise of elections

Following the dissolution of the ruling military council, the Revolutionary Command Council, and the formation of a civilian administration in October [see pp. 39674-75], President Omar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir promised "free and open" elections.

In an interview transmitted on Radio Monte Carlo on Nov. 17, Bashir said that elected provincial councils would be in place by June 1994, after which elections would be held for a national council and a president. Promising that voting would be free, he added that elections would not be run on party, sectarian or tribal lines.

Concern for opposition leader

Officials of the banned Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) on Nov. 22 expressed concern about the safety of Sid Ahmad el-Hussein, the most senior DUP leader remaining in the country, who had been arrested on Nov. 17. Eight people detained with him had been released by Nov. 21.

The arrest of Hussein, whose home had also been ransacked, followed his call on Nov. 16 for the overthrow of the government, at a meeting which was disrupted by supporters of the National Islamic Front. He had been arrested frequently, and tortured, since the 1989 coup.

■ Last article pp. 39674-75; reference article p. R23.

SOMALIA

Reversal of UN policy

The UN Security Council on Nov. 16 formally abandoned its hunt for the fugitive leader of the Somali National Alliance (SNA), Gen. Mohammad Farah Aydid. It adopted Resolution 885, which authorized the establishment of a Commission of Inquiry to investigate attacks against forces attached to the UN Operation in Somalia (UNISOM II), but which also authorized the suspension of all arrest actions against those implicated in such attacks.

Resolution 885 effectively reversed UN Security Council Resolution 837 adopted in early June [see p. 39499] which had condemned the killing of 24 Pakistani UN soldiers in Mogadishu and had sanctioned the warrant for the arrest of Aydid, who was held responsible for the attack.

The change in UN policy, widely expected in October [see p. 39675], followed reports that the USA had vigorously lobbied Security Council members in favour of the public rehabilitation of Aydid ahead of talks in Mogadishu on Nov. 18 between Aydid and the US special envoy to Somalia, Robert

Oakley. The re-orientation in US policy had been signalled in late September by US President Bill Clinton [ibid.].

On Nov. 24 the UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali named a three-member international Commission of Inquiry to implement UN Resolution 885.

Extension of UNISOM II mandate

On Nov. 18 the UN Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 886 renewing the mandate of UNISOM II until May 31, 1994. The Council asked the UN Secretary-General to report to it by Jan. 15, 1994, on progress made in Somalia and on UNISOM's future strategy, in the light of which the Council would review UNISOM's mandate by Feb. 1, 1994.

SNA boycott of UN peace conference

The SNA boycotted a UN-sponsored peace conference which opened in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on Nov. 29, in protest against the continued detention by UN forces of SNA financier Osman Ato and several other prominent SNA members [see p. 39627]. The meeting, which was described as a humanitarian conference, had sought to reconcile the country's warring factions.

An alliance of 12 anti-Aydid factions headed by interim President Ali Mahdi Mohammed was announced on Nov. 19.

Completion of draft interim constitution

A draft interim constitution prepared under the direction of a national reconciliation conference held in Addis Ababa in March [see p. 39356] was submitted to the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative in Somalia, Adml. (ret'd) Jonathan Howe, on Nov. 10.

■ Last article p. 39675; reference article pp. 20-21.

KENYA

Resumption of international aid

The World Bank's Consultative Group on Kenya, which met in Paris on Nov. 22-23, announced the resumption of financial assistance to Kenya, suspended in November 1991 [see p. 38563].

A statement issued after the meeting said that "the donors indicated new commitments for 1994 of about US\$850 million, including at least US\$170 million of fast-disbursing balance-of-payments support". The commitment followed an agreement reached between Kenya and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in early November on the introduction of a new series of economic reforms [see also pp. 39451; 39675]. In April the World Bank had agreed to release the first tranche, worth US\$85,000,000, of foreign aid totalling US\$350 million [see pp. 39403; 39676].

Referring to the donors' decision, Finance Minister Musalia Mudavadi stressed that there was "no strict conditionality" attached to the aid. In their frankly worded communiqué, however, aid donors had urged the government to make concerted efforts to

quell recent ethnic clashes [see pp. 39627; 39675] and to stamp out financial corruption [see pp. 39546; 39586].

■ Last article pp. 39675-76; reference article p. R13.

TANZANIA

CCM decision in favour of separate Tanganyika government

The executive institutions of the ruling *Chama Cha Mapinduzi* (CCM) held a special meeting in Dodoma on Nov. 13-14, and afterwards announced that it had reached a consensus in favour of a parliamentary resolution on the creation of a separate Tanganyika government within the union of Tanzania [see pp. 39627-28]. President Ali Hassan Mwinyi, the CCM chairman, said afterwards that the decision would be submitted to the party's national executive committee which would make a proposal for final approval by the congress.

Lobbying for and against the establishment of a separate government for Tanganyika (mainland Tanzania) had gathered momentum ahead of a decisive vote on the motion expected in late November. On Nov. 13 former President Julius Nyerere, who had originally opposed the parliamentary resolution [see pp. 39627-28], called on CCM delegates to reject the motion, saying that it went against the policies of the party.

Mainlanders seeking equality with Zanzibar claimed that, with its separate government but a mere 3 per cent of the population, the island currently received a disproportionate share of national resources.

■ Last article pp. 39627-28; reference article p. R24.

BURUNDI

Restoration of government

The government of Prime Minister Sylvie Kinigi held its first cabinet meeting since the abortive October coup [see p. 39672] at a hotel on the outskirts of Bujumbura on Nov. 8. The meeting, attended by some 15 ministers, had been made possible after a contingent of 20 French soldiers on Nov. 2 escorted government ministers from hiding in the French embassy.

More than 150,000 people were reported killed in the violence generated by the coup. Among those officially confirmed dead were President Melchior Ndadaye, Juvénal Ndayikeza, the Minister for Territorial Administration and Communal Development, Giles Bimazubute, the Speaker of the National Assembly, several deputies and some senior officials [and not six senior ministers as given on p. 39672].

On Nov. 8 an official spokesman said that the interim presidency would be held by the government in a collegiate capacity since the con-

stitutional successor, the Speaker, had also been killed.

Plans for international intervention

The Organization of African Unity (OAU) announced on Nov. 19 that it would send a contingent of 200 military and civilian personnel to protect government ministers for a period of six months. The decision came in response to an appeal by the government for an international protection force [see p. 39672]. The government's original request to the UN and the OAU for the deployment of 1,000 foreign troops had been rejected by the UN.

On Nov. 20 a government spokesman described the OAU contingent as "insufficient to restore order" and called for another 800 foreign troops. The army meanwhile was reported to have indicated that it would not oppose the presence of an international protection force.

The despatch of a "small" fact-finding mission to inquire into the circumstances of the coup attempt was approved by the UN Security Council on Nov. 16.

Humanitarian crisis

The scale of the humanitarian crisis arising from the coup overwhelmed international aid and relief agencies. On Nov. 18 the World Food Programme (WFP) launched an emergency relief operation for more than 800,000 Burundian refugees and internally displaced people who had fled the vicious ethnic conflict which followed the abortive coup. The UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs responded by allocating US\$5,000,000 to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

On Nov. 25 the UNHCR warned that more than 100 Burundian refugees were dying daily from malnutrition and disease in makeshift camps in neighbouring Rwanda, Tanzania and Zaïre. Reports of an acute food shortage had been confirmed on Nov. 20 by Radio Burundi, which said that the country faced a "food catastrophe" for the first time in its history.

New leader of Frodebu

External Relations and Co-operation Minister Sylvestre Ntibantunganya succeeded the late President Ndaye as leader of the Front for Democracy in Burundi (Frodebu) on Nov. 11. Ntibantunganya, 37, a Hutu, had been a founder member of Frodebu.

■ Last article p. 39672; reference article p. R6.

UGANDA

Return of Okello

Former President Tito Okello Lutwa returned to Uganda on Nov. 21, ending eight years of exile in Kenya, Tanzania and Sudan. Okello had left Uganda in January 1986 shortly before the National Resistance Army captured Kampala [see pp. 34535-38]. Legislation was

passed in 1991 sanctioning his return and granting him the benefits of a former head of state.

Election date

March 28, 1994, was announced on Nov. 20 as the date for the election of delegates to a constituent assembly which would promulgate a new constitution.

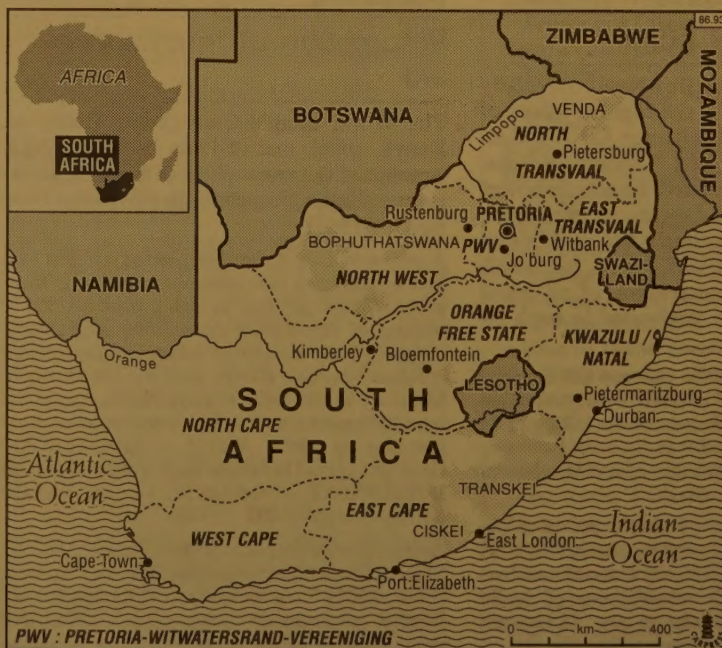
■ Last article pp. 39546-47; 39588; 39629; 39676; reference article p. R25.

SOUTH AFRICA

Interim Constitution

On Nov. 18, delegates to the multiparty negotiations forum finally endorsed an Interim Constitution under which South Africa was to be governed for the five years following the legislative elections on April 27, 1994 [see p. 39670]. The document was an expanded and amended version of the draft published in July [see pp. 39542-43], with a number of additional concessions to the federal demands of the right-wing Freedom Alliance including allowing regions to draft their own constitutions [see p. 39670].

Heralding the agreement as "the end of an era", Nelson Mandela, president of the African National Congress (ANC), called on South Africans to "join hands and march into the future". He also made a special appeal to right-wing Afrikanerdom. Speaking in Afrikaans he promised that "you have the fullest right to your own language, religion and culture; these rights will never be taken away from you". State President F. W. de Klerk said that the document was "the product of compromise" but added that it "basically complies with the objectives which I set myself when we started the negotiations".



Timetable to majority rule

December 1993

Interim Constitution passed by Tricameral Parliament.

Installation of TEC to oversee government in period leading to elections and to ensure free and fair elections.

Establishment of Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) to organize and supervise voting.

Establishment of Independent Media Commission (IMC) to ensure fair news coverage by state-controlled media.

April 27, 1994

Elections by proportional representation to National Assembly and to nine provincial legislatures.

May 1994

Election of President at first sitting of National Assembly.

Selection of government of national unity.

May 1994-May 1996

Drafting of final constitution by constituent assembly.

Early 1996

Local government elections.

1996-1999

Gradual phasing-in of new constitution (government of national unity would remain in place).

1999

Elections under new constitution, with government of national unity being replaced thereafter by majority government.

The negotiations process had been deadlocked until Nov. 17, but the signing was made possible after late-night talks between the ANC and the government during which both made significant concessions. The government abandoned its demand that Cabinet decisions be taken by a two-thirds majority, agreeing instead that they should be made within "the consensus-seeking spirit" of negotiations. Since no figure was specified it was assumed that simple majorities would suffice. For its part the ANC agreed to a fixed five-year term for the transition to majority rule. It also accepted a new formulation for breaking any deadlock relating to the adop-

Key points of Interim Constitution

Executive power would be invested in a president and Cabinet, including at least two deputy presidents. The president would be elected by the National Assembly. Any party with at least 80 National Assembly (equivalent to 20 per cent of the national vote) would be entitled to nominate a deputy president. If no party won 80 seats, the first deputy president, who would act as prime minister, would be elected by the majority party and the second deputy president would be elected by the second largest party. The Cabinet would be a government of national unity in which each party with at least 20 National Assembly seats (i.e. having gained at least 5 per cent of the vote nationally) would be entitled to a number of Cabinet portfolios proportionate to the number of seats which it held. The president would allocate portfolios in consultation with party leaders, who could request the replacement of their party's office-holders. Cabinet decisions would be made "in a consensus-seeking spirit".

Legislative authority would be vested in a bicameral parliament (National Assembly and Senate) whose term of office would last until 1999.

The 400-member National Assembly would be elected by proportional representation with 200 members elected from national party lists and 200 from regional party lists.

The Senate would consist of 90 indirectly elected members, with each of the nine regional legislatures electing 10 senators. It would be headed by a president and would have to agree by special majorities to categories of legislation relating to the regions, such as boundary changes.

The Constituent Assembly would be the National Assembly and Senate sitting in joint session (known in the July draft as the constitution-making body). Its decisions would be taken by two-thirds majority and would be constrained by constitutional principles set out in the Interim Constitution. If the constituent assembly could not agree on the final constitution by a two-thirds majority within two years of its first sitting, the final constitution would be put to a referendum requiring a 60 per cent majority. If this was not achieved, agreement on the final constitution would be postponed until after a general election in 1999 when a new constituent assembly would be

asked to approve the document with a 60 per cent majority.

The final constitution would have to enshrine 31 Constitutional principles including the unitary state, multiparty democracy, provincial "integrity", basic human rights, and the independence of the judiciary.

The four existing provinces (Cape, Natal, Orange Free State and Transvaal) would be replaced by nine regions: Eastern Cape, Eastern Transvaal, Kwazulu/Natal, Northern Cape, Northern Transvaal, Northwest, Orange Free State, Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vereeniging (PWV), and Western Cape.

Each region would have a provincial legislature, with between 30 and 100 members depending on the size of the local electorate, elected by proportional representation. Each provincial legislature would be entitled to write a constitution for the region, provided that it complied with the principles governing the national constitution. As agreed in August [see pp. 39584-85], the provincial legislatures would have control over 15 functional areas.

Local government: White voters in existing municipalities would elect 30 per cent of seats on new multi-racial town and city councils, Black rate- and rent-payers would elect another 30 per cent and the remainder would be elected on a non-racial basis.

Restitution of land: Communities or individuals would be able to claim—through a special commission and the courts—restitution of land dispossessed under any racial law from 1913. The courts would have to take into account factors such as potential hardship, the current use of the property and the history of the acquisition of the land. The owners of any land expropriated as a result of a claim would be entitled to compensation from the state.

Franchise: All citizens aged at least 18 years would be entitled to vote.

National symbols: A national flag and anthem (yet to be agreed) would be introduced by act of parliament.

National Languages: There would be 11 official languages. Members of parliament could address parliament in any of the recognized tongues. However, in practice English and Afrikaans would remain the languages of record.

Other points did not differ significantly from the July draft [see p. 39542].

tion of the final constitution, which could thereby be delayed until after the 1999 general election. The two sides also endorsed the single-ballot system for the April 1994 election under which voters would vote for the same party, or political alliance, at both national and regional levels.

Reaction of Freedom Alliance

The document was rejected by the Freedom Alliance, despite the efforts of the ANC and government to win its support for the Interim Constitution. However, the response of Alliance members was not uniform.

Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, leader of the *Inkatha* Freedom Party, warned that he would resist the interim constitution and reduce it to the "rubble of

history". Speaking on Nov. 18 he said that he would rather "go into the political wilderness than legitimize a wrong constitution by entering elections under it". However, *Inkatha* officials later admitted that the party had established an electoral commission, had a campaign logo, and were raising campaign money.

Ferdinand Hartzenberg of the Conservative Party (CP) and Eugene Terreblanche of the Afrikaner Resistance Movement (AWB) on Nov. 19 called for a whites-only election to test support for the Interim Constitution. On Nov. 26 Terreblanche urged whites to arm themselves for an "inevitable" civil war. His call for people to steal guns and arm "their women" led to weekend leave being cancelled for some military units.

Abolition of Section 29 of ISA

On Nov. 11 the multiparty negotiating forum agreed to repeal Section 29 of the Internal Security Act (ISA) which allowed for detention without trial.

This measure had been one of the most hated pieces of apartheid legislation and had been used against tens of thousands of anti-apartheid protesters. The decision to repeal it and the corresponding legislation in the four nominally independent bantustans ("homelands")—Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Venda and Ciskei) was just one of a series of security-related decisions taken by the forum prior to endorsing the Interim Constitution.

On Nov. 17 the negotiators agreed on the structure of both the new police force and the defence force. They decided that the existing South African Police would be replaced by the South African Police Service to be established and regulated by act of parliament. The two-tier force would be under the control of both national and provincial governments. They also agreed that the South African Defence Force (SADF) would be replaced by the National Defence Force and would consist of the SADF, the defence forces of Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Venda and Ciskei, and the members of any armed or military force under the control of a political organization.

Trial of Gqozo

Brig. Joshua Oupa Gqozo, the military leader of the Ciskei bantustan ("homeland"), went on trial in Ciskei Supreme Court on Nov. 9. He faced charges of murder or incitement to murder, relating to the killing of Lt.-Gen. Charles Sebe during a coup attempt in January 1991 [see p. 37952]. The judge rejected the view of Gqozo's counsel that under common law principles established under English law the head of state could not be prosecuted, saying that he saw no link between the English law prerogative that the monarch "can do no wrong" and Gqozo's position.

■ Last article p. 39670; reference article pp. R21-22.

MALAWI

Repeal of life presidency

In November the National Assembly passed a series of measures to prepare for multiparty elections scheduled for 1994. The most significant of these was the Constitutional Amendment Bill passed on Nov. 17. This repealed the institution of life presidency, a feature incorporated in the Constitution in 1970, when Hastings Kamuzu Banda was given this title, which was only to apply to him [see p. 24714].

Other measures included in the bill were the reduction of the qualifying age for a presidential candidate from 40 to 35 years; the repeal of the requirement that election candidates be members of the ruling Malawi Congress Party (MCP); the repeal of the right of the president to nominate members of parliament exclusively from the MCP; and the lowering of the minimum voting age from 21 to 18 years.

On Nov. 16 the National Assembly approved legislation formally establishing two bodies to oversee the transition to democracy: the National Consultative Council (NCC) and the National Executive Council (NEC). The MCP had agreed to the formation of these multiparty bodies in the wake of the June referendum supporting multiparty democracy [see p. 39498]. Both bodies had begun meeting soon afterwards. Parliament also amended the Public Security Act on Nov. 16, repealing all provisions relating to detention without trial. On the same day, the Decency in Dress Act was repealed, allowing women to wear trousers and skirts above the knee and men to grow their hair beyond the collar.

Cabinet changes

The Presidential Council, installed in October as a result of President Banda's illness [see pp. 39671-72], made a number of ministerial appointments on Nov. 2.

Gwanda Chakuamba, Chairman of the Presidential Council, was named as Minister of Home Affairs. Katola Phiri, hitherto Minister of Local Government, was appointed Minister of Agriculture, a position previously held by President Banda, who as a result of the reshuffle was without ministerial responsibilities for the first time since 1964. Other changes included the appointment of Mfungo Mwakikunga as Minister of Forestry and Natural Resources, while his position as Minister of Information and Tourism was allocated to Johnson Mkwandire. Jimmy Alfred Kienda replaced Phiri as Minister of Local Government.

Resumption of EU aid

The European Union (EU, previously the EC) agreed on Nov. 25 to resume aid to Malawi. EU officials said that they were persuaded that the government had made sufficient progress on human rights and good governance since the suspension of aid 18 months before. Under the terms of the agreement, Malawi would receive approximately 150 million kwacha (about US\$35,000,000) from the EU for balance-of-payments support.

■ Last article pp. 39671-72; reference article pp. R.14-15.

SWAZILAND

New government

On Nov. 4 King Mswati III appointed Prince Jameson Mbilini Dlamini as Prime Minister, at a ceremony at the royal cattle byre at the traditional capital, Ludzidzini. Veteran politician Sishayi Nxumalo was appointed Deputy Prime Minister.

A non-elected member of the House of Assembly, Mbilini had been Minister of Works and Construction in the administration of Obed Dlamini which had been dismissed in October following the general election [see pp. 39670-71]. The elevation of Mbilini, a conservative, was welcomed by traditionalists, although his Cabinet as announced on Nov. 10 included several reformist ministers.

Former Prime Minister Obed Dlamini, who had failed to win re-election to parliament, was appointed to the Senate by the King. In an unexpected move, Mswati also named disgraced former Prime Minister Prince Bhekimpi Dlamini as a senator.

New Swazi Cabinet

- *Prince Jameson Mbilini Dlamini Prime Minister
- Sishayi Nxumalo Deputy Prime Minister
- Chief Maweni Simelane Justice
- *Albert Nhlanhla Shabangu Labour and Public Service
- *Prince Khuzulwandle Education
- Chief Dambuzo Lukhele Agriculture and Co-operatives
- John Carmichael Housing and Urban Development
- Isaac Shabangu Finance
- *Themba M. Masuku Economic Planning
- Muntu Mswane Commerce and Industry
- Prince Phinda Broadcasting and Information
- *Prince Sobandla Home Affairs
- *Solomon Dlamini Foreign Affairs
- Prince Mahlalengangeni Works and Construction
- Derick von Wissel Health
- Ephraim Magagula Transport and Communications
- Arthur Khoza Natural Resources, Land Utilization
- *Member of previous administration.

Bhekimpi had been convicted of high treason in 1988 for his part in the 1983 dethroning of Queen Regent Dzeliwe [see p. 32485].

■ Last article pp. 39670-71; reference article pp. R23-24.

ANGOLA

Agreement on troop withdrawal

A further breakthrough in the peace process was announced on Nov. 1, when the rebel National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) agreed to withdraw its forces from areas which it had occupied since the resumption of the civil war in October 1992. The move followed a series of concessions by UNITA in October, including acknowledging the results of the September 1992 elections [see p. 39671]. Taken together the moves were sufficient for UNITA to avert the immediate imposition of further UN sanctions against it. They also facilitated the resumption of direct talks with the government.

On Nov. 1 Alioune Blondin Beye, the UN representative in Angola, informed the UN Security Council that UNITA had given a written undertaking to withdraw its forces to the UN-monitored confinement areas where they had been held awaiting demobilization prior to the September elections [see p. 39082]. The Security Council, which had imposed a mandatory oil and arms embargo against UNITA in September [see p. 39623], accordingly agreed to postpone the implementation of a second package of sanctions until Dec. 15. However, it warned that further sanctions would be imposed immediately if the rebels failed to comply with their recent undertakings.

Direct talks between the government and UNITA, adjourned in May [see p. 39447], resumed in Lusaka, Zambia, on Nov. 16.

Despite the objections of UNITA, Beye insisted that the talks be held in conformity with the May 1991 Bicesse Peace Accord [see p. 38180], the results of the 1992 elections [see pp. 39128-29]; and the Abidjan Protocol [see pp. 39399-400: 39447] and various UN Security Council resolutions on the conflict [see pp. 39350; 39497; 39623]. After three days of debate, the two sides agreed on a five-point agenda: a ceasefire, the mandate of the UN Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II), the police, the armed forces, and national reconciliation. As the month ended there were a number of unconfirmed press reports that a ceasefire beginning on Dec. 20 had been agreed.

Rising death toll

On Nov. 9 João Bernardo Miranda, the deputy Foreign Minister, said that 2,000 people were dying each day as a result of the direct and indirect effects of the war—a death toll twice as high as the most recent UN estimate [see p. 39543]. Commentators noted that even at 1,000 deaths a day, the figure represented the highest fatality rate of any conflict in the world.

The Minister was speaking the day after an urgent appeal to all UN member states by Jan Eliasson, the UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, calling for contributions to the humanitarian relief programme in Angola. It was reported that of the US\$227 million requested in June [see p. 39497] only US\$60,500,000 had so far been forthcoming.

■ Last article p. 39671; reference article p. R3.

MOZAMBIQUE

Progress in peace process

Further progress was made in the peace process in November, with the government and the rebel Mozambique National Resistance (MNR or Renamo) reaching agreements on demobilization and the electoral law. These advances followed the intervention of UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali in October [see p. 39671] and increasing pressure from the UN Security Council for a speedy resolution of the process.

On Nov. 5 the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 882 renewing the mandate of the UN Operation in Mozambique (UNOMOZ) [see p. 39227] for a period of six months, subject to review within 90 days. The Council requested Boutros-Ghali to report by Jan. 31, 1994, and every three months thereafter, on whether the parties had made sufficient progress towards implementing the October 1992 General Peace Agreement [see p. 39129] and meeting the timetable for electoral and military developments.

The agreement on demobilization was signed on Nov. 11. Under its terms all troops from both sides would be confined to 49 designated areas (29 for government forces and 20 for Renamo) in a process beginning on Nov. 30 and scheduled to take six months. The estimated 82,000 troops would re-

ceive rations from the UN World Food Programme, which also undertook to supply food to 40,000 dependents who were expected to join the soldiers in the confinement areas. Although a number of the camps had yet to be inspected by UNOMOS personnel by Nov. 30, all the camps were expected to be operational before the end of December.

The outstanding differences over the electoral law were overcome when President Joachim Chissano and Renamo leader Afonso Dhlakama agreed on Nov. 18 that Mozambicans abroad should be allowed to vote where the Elections Commission felt it was possible. Chissano noted that while he was anxious for everyone to exercise his or her constitutional rights, it might not be possible for Mozambicans in more distant countries to do so. Renamo had earlier objected to enfranchising citizens abroad, accusing the government of attempting to organize an electoral fraud, and threatening to resume fighting.

■ Last article p. 39671; reference article pp. R16-17.

MAURITIUS

Split in MMM - Cabinet reshuffle

The repercussions of the dismissal of Pål Bérenger as Foreign Minister in August [see pp. 39587-88] continued to be felt as a deep split in his *Mouvement militant mauricien* (MMM) emerged and Prime Minister Aneerood Jugnauth was compelled to reshuffle his coalition government in early November.

Divisions within the MMM became apparent in mid-October when a faction led by Deputy Prime Minister Prem Nababsing and Jean-Claude Gervais de L'Estrac, Minister of Industry and Industrial Technology, announced the suspension of Bérenger as secretary-general of the party. However, the move was rejected by Bérenger supporters who at a meeting on Oct. 23-24 expelled 11 MMM officers from the party, including Nababsing and de L'Estrac, and on Nov. 5 filed a formal request at the Supreme Court seeking to ban the Nababsing/de L'Estrac faction from using the party name and logo.

On Nov. 2 the two remaining Bérenger supporters in the Cabinet, Alan Ganoo and Jaya Krishna Cuttaree, resigned. As a result Amede Dargo from the Nababsing/de L'Estrac faction took over from Cuttaree as Minister of Housing, Land and Town and Country Planning. Prem Koonjoo, another member of the Nababsing/de L'Estrac group, was appointed to the Ministry of Local Government, replacing Mathieu Laclé, also of the anti-Bérenger faction, who was appointed Minister of Fisheries, taking over this portfolio from Murlidass Dulloo of the Prime Minister's *Mouvement socialist mauricien* (MSM), the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources. In addition Dulloo took on the Justice portfolio relinquished by Ganoo.

■ Last article pp. 39587-88; reference article p. R16.

OAU

Establishment of Peace Fund

Foreign ministers of the member states of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on Nov. 18, agreed to establish a Peace Fund. OAU Secretary-General Salim Ahmed Salim described the fund as "a practical manifestation of Africa's commitment to work for peace". The ministers recommended that 5 per cent of the annual OAU budget be allocated to the fund, provided that this amount was no less than US\$1,000,000, and that US\$500,000 be earmarked for work in 1993.

The ministers also approved the principles for the establishment of the African Mechanism Apparatus for Preventing, Managing and Resolving African Crises [for passing of resolution on establishing such a mechanism by June OAU heads of state and government meeting see p. 39500].

It was envisaged that the body would be composed of a central committee consisting of member states of the OAU summit bureau. Its principal objectives were defined as to resolve and prevent crises, to undertake peacekeeping tasks and solve existing crises.

■ Last article p. 39500; reference article p. R27.

PTA

Common Market treaty

The 12th summit meeting of heads of state and government of the member states of the Preferential Trade Area of Eastern and Southern African States (PTA) was held in Kampala, Uganda, on Nov. 5. The meeting was attended by delegations from 14 of the 19 existing member states (not present were Angola, Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, and Somalia). Delegations also attended from two of the three new member states which were admitted at this meeting (Eritrea and Madagascar but not Seychelles). Three delegations from South Africa, representing the government, the African National Congress (ANC) and the *Inkatha* Freedom Party, attended the proceedings as observers.

At the opening session a treaty was signed by 15 of the 16 PTA member countries present, to establish the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (Comesa)—a free trade zone and customs union with a system of common external tariffs.

One of Comesa's stated aims was listed as helping national economies to overcome structural economic weaknesses, such as slow rates of capital accumulation, insufficient industrial development, and underdevelopment in agriculture, transport and communications.

The Comesa signatory countries, with a combined population of over 200 million people, were Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar,

Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia. President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe refused to sign the treaty on the grounds that the relationship between the PTA and the Southern African Development Community (SADC), of which Zimbabwe was also a member, had yet to be clearly defined [see p. 39260]. He also reportedly raised doubts about the efficacy of the PTA.

Delegates agreed that South Africa would be asked to join Comesa after multiracial elections scheduled for April 1994 had been held.

Bingu Mutharika was elected as Comesa Secretary-General and re-elected as PTA Secretary-General for a further four years.

President Meles Zenawi of Ethiopia was elected as PTA Chair, and President Joaquim Alberto Chissano of Mozambique as Vice-Chair.

■ Last article p. 39260; reference article p. R27.

IN BRIEF

CAMEROON: John Fru Ndi, chairman of the opposition Social Democratic Front (SDF), took refuge in the residence of the Netherlands ambassador in Yaoundé on Nov. 3-5 after a police water cannon vehicle rammed his car as he made his way to a press conference to mark the first anniversary of President Paul Biya's third term of office.

ERITREA: Relief agencies appealed on Nov. 18 for aid to help avert an imminent famine; 80 per cent of the year's harvest was reported to have been destroyed by locusts and other pests as well as untimely rain in almost every province of the country.

GABON: Pierre Mamboundou, leader of the Gabonese People's Union (UPG), returned from exile in Senegal on Nov. 2 and announced his intention to stand in the presidential elections scheduled for Dec. 5.

SENEGAL: Three members of the National Assembly and 130 opposition activists were arrested on Nov. 5 during a demonstration against the government's austerity measures [see p. 39588] which had been organized by the African Party for Democracy and Socialism (PADS); charges of participation in an unauthorized demonstration were brought against those arrested, including Landing Savane of the PADS and Ousmane Ngom and Abdoulaye Faye, both of the Senegalese Democratic Party (PDS).

ZIMBABWE: The state radio on Nov. 6 reported government plans to cut the 51,500-member army to 11,000 troops; the report, which gave no details of when the process would be completed, said that the reduction was part of the World Bank-approved economic reform programme launched in 1991.

AMERICAS

UNITED STATES

Gubernatorial and mayoral elections

Gubernatorial and mayoral elections in several areas of the USA on Nov. 2 amounted to the largest cluster of polls since President Bill Clinton took office in January 1993. In the three most significant contests—for the governorships of Virginia and New Jersey, and the mayoralty of New York City—Republican challengers defeated Democrats. The results left the Democrats in control of 28 state governorships, and the Republicans holding 20; the remaining two were controlled by independents [for 1989 elections see p. 37035].

In Virginia, Republican challenger George F. Allen, a former member of the House of Representatives, won 58 per cent of the vote compared with 41 per cent for the Democratic candidate, Mary Sue Terry, and 1 per cent for independent candidate Nancy Spannaus. Although Terry had begun the campaign as the favourite to succeed retiring Governor Douglas Wilder, her party colleague, she was outmanoeuvred by Allen on the issues of crime, gun-control, and taxation. Terry's campaign was also held to have been damaged by the long-running personal feud between Wilder and his Democratic colleague Senator Charles S. Robb, and by the unpopularity within the state of some of the measures initiated by Clinton in his first year in office. Republicans also made a net gain of six seats in the lower house of the state's legislature, thereby bringing to 47 the number of seats under Republican control in the 100-member House of Delegates.

In New Jersey Republican challenger Christine Todd Whitman narrowly defeated Democratic Governor Jim Florio to become the first female governor in the state's history. Whitman polled almost 50 per cent of the vote compared with 48 per cent for Florio; the remainder was split between 17 other candidates. Florio's campaign was hampered by his initiation in 1990 of sharp increases in direct and indirect taxation. Running on an anti-tax platform, with a plan to reduce income tax by about a third over three years, Whitman overcame a poor start to the campaign and was able to finish strongly despite late campaign appearances on Florio's behalf by both the President and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton. The Republicans also maintained their majorities in both houses of the state's legislature.

In post-election interviews, Whitman's campaign manager Ed Rollins claimed that the Republican campaign had spent some \$500,000 in payments to black ministers and community leaders in an attempt to suppress the black vote. The turnout among black voters fell as a proportion of the total vote from 12 per cent in 1989 to 8 per cent in 1993. Although Whitman denied the claims, on Nov. 15 a federal judge and the state's attorney general ordered inquiries into the matter.

In New York City, former attorney Rudolph Giuliani was set to become the 107th mayor after narrowly defeating Democratic incumbent David N. Dinkins. Running as a Liberal candidate (which involved a platform which was Republican in all but name), Giuliani polled 51 per cent of the vote compared with 48 per cent for Dinkins, a margin almost identical to that by which Dinkins had defeated Giuliani in 1989 when he had become the city's first black mayor [see p. 37035]. Dinkins's failure to retain office in a city which was overwhelmingly Democratic epitomized the widespread dissatisfaction with the record of his first term. This was underlined by Giuliani's endorsement by several of the city's most prominent Democrats, including former mayor Ed Koch.

In addition to focusing on crime and the city's economic problems, the campaign had strong racial overtones with both of the major candidates accusing the other of employing racist sentiment in a bid to boost their support. The racial character of the contest was commented upon by President Clinton who, together with his wife and Vice President Al Gore, made several campaign appearances on behalf of Dinkins. In the event, it was estimated that Giuliani won 77 per cent of the white vote (whites constituting some 55 per cent of the city's total population), and 38 per cent of the Hispanic vote, while Dinkins polled 95 per cent of the black vote. Other city posts being contested were won by Democrats, and the incumbent presidents (four Democrats and one Republican) were re-elected in the city's five constituent boroughs.

In other mayoral contests Minneapolis elected Democrat Sharon Sayles Belton, the first woman and first black to hold the post, while black Democratic incumbents were returned in Cleveland and Seattle. In Buffalo, New York, the Democrats ousted a Republican incumbent, but the Democratic incumbent was defeated in Hartford, Connecticut, by an independent. In Houston Bob Lanier, first elected in a non-partisan run-off in December 1991 [see p. 38668], was re-elected against only token opposition, and the Democrats retained control of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and St Paul, Minnesota.

As was customary, there were numerous local and state propositions (effectively referendums) on a wide variety of issues.

Voters in Maine and New York City supported the imposition of term-limits on elected representatives, while in Cincinnati, Ohio, and Lewiston, Maine, there were majorities for repealing laws protecting homosexuals. Californians rejected an initiative to provide each school student with vouchers which could be used in private schools, but approved a 0.5 percentage point rise in sales tax to fund law enforcement and firefighting. In Washington state a measure was approved to provide a mandatory sentence of life imprisonment without parole for anyone found guilty of a third felony. Staten Island, the smallest of New York City's five boroughs, voted by 65 to 35 per cent to secede from the city, a decision subject to approval by the city legislature and the state's governor prior to implementation.

Resignation of Deputy Secretary of State - Foreign policy statement

Widespread criticism of the administration's foreign policy [see p. 39676] claimed its first prominent victim with the resignation of Deputy Secretary of State Clifton R. Wharton on Nov. 8.

The highest-ranking black official in the State Department, Wharton had been largely engaged in administrative work rather than policy formulation. The administration denied suggestions that he had been sacrificed to appease critics of the State Department, and claimed that his departure had been under consideration for some time.

Prior to Wharton's resignation there had been further attempts by the administration to clarify its foreign policy objectives. In a statement to the Senate foreign relations committee on Nov. 4, Secretary of State Warren Christopher stressed that the government was intent upon pursuing an "activist" foreign policy, and outlined six priorities which "address the great challenges in this era of change".

These were: US "economic security", which was defined as inseparable from national security; successful reform in Russia, which Christopher described as the "highest foreign policy priority"; the preservation and expansion of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO); the creation of a "new Pacific community" of trade and integrated economies in the Far East; the encouragement of peace in the Middle East; and support for nuclear non-proliferation. Christopher expressed regret that media coverage had drawn public attention disproportionately towards areas of lesser priority, including Somalia, Bosnia, and Haiti, thereby helping to create the image of foreign policy failures during the administration's first year in office.

Enactment of "Brady bill" - Senate approval of omnibus crime bill

The so-called "Brady bill" was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Clinton on Nov. 30, the most significant gun control legislation since the banning in 1968 of the mail-order sale of rifles and shotguns [see p. 22999].

The legislation provided for the imposition of a five-day waiting period for anyone seeking to purchase a handgun, so that the authorities could check the individual's background for evidence of a criminal record. A fund of \$200 million would assist states to update their criminal records, for use in a national computerized system of instant background checks. After five years, whether or not this computerized checking system was in operation, the legislation provided that the five-day waiting period would be dispensed with.

The bill was named after James S. Brady, the press secretary of former President Ronald Reagan, who had been severely disabled after being shot during the 1981 assassination attempt on the President [see p. 30913]. The bill had been first proposed in 1986 and had become a regular component of unsuccessful

ful anti-crime legislative packages. In 1991 it had been passed by the House of Representatives [see p. 38184] but had failed to secure Senate approval.

The bill was passed by the House on Nov. 10 and then sent to the Senate where it was delayed by a resolute Republican filibuster. In the face of widespread public anger, the filibuster was abandoned and the bill was passed on Nov. 20 by 63 votes to 36. It was then sent to a joint conference of the two Houses in order for the two versions of the bills to be reconciled into a single piece of legislation. This composite bill was approved by the House on Nov. 22 and by the Senate on Nov. 24.

Upon receiving the news that the bill had completed its tortuous passage through Congress, President Clinton described himself as "elated". He called the bill's approval a "wonderful Thanksgiving present" but, in an implicit admission that the limited aims of the bill made it more of a symbolic than a practical measure against the proliferation of guns, he characterized it as "a beginning, in what must be a long and relentless assault on the problems of crime and violence in this country".

The Senate on Nov. 19 passed a \$22,300 million omnibus crime bill, which contained an array of new measures designed to combat crime. The bill, the largest criminal measure ever considered by the chamber, was approved by 95 votes to four.

Its measures included funding for an additional 100,000 police officers, a ban on the sale of 19 types of semi-automatic assault weapons (including the AK-47 and the Uzi), and tougher sentences, including an expansion of the death penalty to cover some 50 federal offences. The measure was set to go to a joint conference of the two Houses in 1994, where it would be reconciled with a series of individual crime bills covering similar ground which had been passed by the House.

Florida legislation against firearms

In a further measure against firearms, the Florida state legislature voted on Nov. 9 to make it illegal for juveniles to possess guns, and to make parents liable for punishment if their children were found with guns.

The measure was similar to laws already enacted in Colorado and being proposed in Arizona. A similar provision was also included in the Senate's omnibus crime bill.

Senate subpoena of Packwood diaries

The ethics investigation into charges of sexual harassment against Republican Senator Bob Packwood [see p. 39676], reached a crucial stage on Nov. 2 when the Senate decided by 96 votes to six to authorize legal action to force Packwood to surrender his personal diaries to the Senate ethics committee.

The unprecedented vote followed a decision on Oct. 20 by the committee to attempt to subpoena the diaries, a move which was resisted by Packwood. There then followed an extensive debate in the full Senate over the right to privacy of an individual and the legal powers of a congressional committee. Following the vote the Senate filed a legal suit on Nov. 22 requesting that Packwood

provide the ethics committee with copies of the diary.

Supreme Court ruling on sexual harassment

The Supreme Court issued a key ruling on Nov. 10 which defined sexual harassment in such a way as to make it easier for workers to take action against employers.

In the case of *Harris v. Forklift Systems Inc.*, [see p. 39677], the Court overturned a lower court ruling by adjudicating unanimously that a plaintiff was not required to prove that a superior's conduct had caused "severe psychological injury" in order to prove a charge of sexual harassment. In outlining the judgment, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, one of the two women on the nine-member Court, stated that the key test in such cases should be whether a "reasonable person" would find that the environment caused by the alleged harassment would be "hostile or abusive", in which case "there was no need for it to be also psychologically injurious".

Appeal court ruling on homosexual naval student

The federal US District Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit on Nov. 16 overturned the decision of a lower court by ordering the US Naval Academy to allow the graduation of a student whom it had forced to resign in 1987 after he had admitted his homosexuality. The court also ordered the Navy to grant the student, Midshipman Joseph C. Steffan, a commission.

The court ruled that it was unconstitutional and "fundamentally unjust" to have forced Steffan's resignation "solely because of a truthful confession of a sexual preference different from that of the majority, a preference untarnished by even a scintilla of misconduct". Thus, although the case predated recent challenges to the Clinton administration's compromise policy on the eligibility of homosexuals to serve in the military [see p. 39677], it was seen as a clear legal challenge to the "don't ask, don't tell" policy which the administration had agreed with the Defence Department.

In brief

The California bush fires which began in late October continued to sweep across southern stretches of the state in early November, killing at least three people and causing damage estimated in the region of \$1,000 million; the authorities suggested that at least seven of the 18 major blazes had been started deliberately.

Jack Kevorkian, a retired pathologist who faced murder charges for having assisted in the suicides of 19 people, was imprisoned on Nov. 5 for refusing to post 10 per cent of a \$20,000 bond; he immediately began a hunger strike and was released on Nov. 8 after the money was paid by a sympathizer [see also pp. 39631; 39678].

H. R. Haldeman, chief of staff of former President Richard Nixon, who served 18 months in prison for conspiracy, obstruction and lying to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and a federal grand jury in connection with the Watergate cover-up, died on Nov. 12, aged 67.

On Nov. 21 the House of Representatives defeated by 277 votes to 153 a bill which sought to confer statehood upon the District of Columbia [see also p. 39729 for referendum on status of Puerto Rico].

■ Last article pp. 39676-78; reference article pp. R54-56.

CANADA

Inauguration of new government

Jean Chrétien was sworn in as Canada's 20th Prime Minister on Nov. 4, following the decisive victory of his Liberal Party in the Oct. 25 general election [see pp. 39678-79]. He succeeded the country's first female Prime Minister, Kim Campbell of the Progressive Conservative Party (PCP), who had held office for only 134 days.

Chrétien, 59, a mill-worker's son from Shawinigan, Quebec, was the 18th of his parents' 19 children. A lawyer by training, he entered the House of Commons as a Liberal in 1963, served in the Cabinets of Lester Pearson and Pierre Trudeau, and in 1977 became the first French Canadian to hold the Finance portfolio. He was a staunch advocate of Canadian unity, campaigning strongly against separatism in the 1980 referendum on the issue of sovereignty for Quebec [see p. 30464]. He lost the 1984 leadership contest within his party to John Turner and resigned from Parliament in 1986 [see pp. 33022; 34940]. He was re-elected to the legis-

New Canadian Cabinet

Jean Chrétien Prime Minister
 Sheila Copps (f) Deputy Prime Minister; Environment
 Paul Martin Finance; Federal Office of Regional Development—Quebec
 Roy MacLaren International Trade
 John Manley Industry
 Marcel Massé Intergovernmental Affairs; Public Services Renewal
 André Ouellet Foreign Affairs
 David Collenette Defence; Veterans' Affairs
 Diane Marleau (f) Health
 Douglas Young Transport
 Anne McLellan (f) Natural Resources
 Ralph Goodale Agriculture and Agri-Food
 Brian Tobin Fisheries and Oceans
 Sergio Marchi Citizenship and Immigration
 David Anderson National Review
 Lloyd Axworthy Human Resources Development; Western Economic Diversification
 Ron Irwin Indian Affairs; Northern Development
 David Dingwall Public Works; Atlantic Opportunities
 Michel Dupuy Canadian Heritage
 Arthur Eggleton President of Treasury Board; Infrastructure
 Allan Rock Justice; Attorney General
 Herbert Gray Leader of House; Solicitor General
 Joyce Fairbairn (f) Leader of Senate; Literacy

lature in 1990 and in the same year won the leadership of his party [see p. 37520].

The new government faced major economic problems, including an estimated federal budget deficit for the year ending March 31, 1994, of a record C\$40,000 million (US\$1.00=C\$1.2965 as at Nov. 8, 1993). The economy remained sluggish, with areas of growth outstripped by rapidly rising health and welfare costs. Unemployment was running at around 11 per cent, and total external debt was estimated to be in the region of US\$225,000 million.

Appointment of Cabinet

Chrétien appointed 22 ministers to the federal Cabinet on Nov. 4.

In a departure from recent tradition, the Cabinet included only four representatives from Quebec, despite the fact that the province contained some 25 per cent of the country's total population. Six members (including Chrétien himself) had served in previous Liberal administrations, and there were four women in the Cabinet, included the Deputy Prime Minister, Sheila Copps, 40.

The Cabinet was drawn heavily from the centre-right of the party. Paul Martin, 55, whom Chrétien had defeated in the party leadership contest, was a fiscal conservative who was committed to the gradual reduction of the burgeoning budget deficit. Roy MacLaren, 59, was an avowed supporter of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), although Chrétien was known to be critical of the agreement in its current form [see also below].

Recognition of Bloc Québécois as official opposition

Following the catastrophic electoral performance of the PCP, the party with the second-largest number of seats was the separatist *Bloc Québécois* led by Lucien Bouchard, and thus, by tradition, entitled to become the official opposition. This entitlement was criticized in many quarters, on the grounds that, despite its 54 parliamentary seats, the *Bloc* was not a national party; it had fielded candidates only in Quebec and was committed to achieving independence for the predominantly French-speaking province. Nevertheless, when the new Parliament assembled the *Bloc* became the official opposition to the Liberal government, and Bouchard became Leader of the Opposition after taking his seat on Nov. 9—a process which involved swearing allegiance to Queen Elizabeth II.

Policy initiatives of new government

On the day of his inauguration Chrétien moved quickly to implement two of his major election pledges. He immediately cancelled a controversial contract for the purchase of a fleet of new military helicopters, and began allocating funds for a public works programme which was designed to stimulate domestic demand and reduce unemployment.

The helicopter deal involved the purchase of 43 new EH101 machines from a consortium led by Westland of the UK and by Agusta of Italy. It had been planned to refit the aircraft for anti-submarine

warfare and to operate them from a fleet of frigates which was currently under construction. The US\$4,400 million deal signed by the PCP government had been widely denounced by the opposition parties during the election campaign. Following its cancellation, however, Bouchard demanded that Quebec be "compensated" for the economic loss—which some estimated would be as high as US\$1,000 million—involved in scrapping the project. Bouchard also suggested that equivalent defence contract work elsewhere in English-speaking Canada be suspended. The demands, which were rejected by Chrétien, were denounced by the Reform Party—which had finished with the third largest number of seats—as illustrative of the parochial outlook of the country's official opposition.

The Prime Minister acknowledged that the cancellation of the helicopter deal was the beginning of an overall review of Canada's defence and foreign policies. Thus, although he ruled out specific project-related compensation, he indicated that funds would be made available to assist defence-related industries to convert to non-military production.

The public works programme involved the planned investment of up to C\$6,000 million in joint projects with local governments in a bid to improve roads, public transport and other aspects of the country's infrastructure. The programme, which was to be funded in part from defence cuts, was designed to create 120,000 jobs in the next two years. It was denounced by the PCP on the grounds that it would produce only short-term jobs while adding to the country's budget deficit.

On the subject of NAFTA (which had been agreed between Canada, Mexico and the USA in August 1992 and formally signed the following December—see pp. 39045-46; 39234) Chrétien reiterated his intention to press for a renegotiation of some of its terms. The bill to ratify NAFTA had been approved by the Canadian Parliament [see p. 39507] but had not been formally promulgated. Chrétien indicated that proclamation would be delayed until the USA and Mexico agreed to address his reservations concerning the agreement, particularly those relating to the imposition of punitive trade sanctions.

Last article pp. 39678-79; reference article pp. R33-34.

NAFTA

US congressional approval

The US House of Representatives voted on Nov. 17 by the unexpectedly wide margin of 234 to 200 to approve the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), negotiated with Canada and Mexico [see p. 39507], upon which President Bill Clinton had staked much of his personal prestige.

Only 102 out of 258 Democrats voted in favour, but 132 Republican representatives (out of 175) also ultimately supported NAFTA.

Opposition had come principally from the right wing (especially in the southern sugar- and citrus-producing states, which feared the impact of Mexican competition) and also

from the traditional left-wing trade unions, environmentalists and consumer groups.

Ross Perot, who had stood as an independent candidate in the 1992 presidential campaign, called successfully for a televised debate on NAFTA, but his consequent encounter on Nov. 9 with Vice-President Al Gore was generally hailed as an outright victory for the latter, with an opinion poll among viewers showing an increase in support for NAFTA from 34 per cent before the debate to 57 per cent afterwards. Perot also caused deep resentment in Mexico by characterizing the country as one with an oppressive government, where the workers enjoyed few, if any, labour or democratic rights.

The leader of the Anti-NAFTA Citizens' Trade Campaign, James Jontz, denounced the agreement as "more of the same trickle-down economics, putting corporations ahead of people". Lobbying by the trade unions, featuring the threat of withdrawal of union support from pro-NAFTA members of Congress, was criticized by Clinton in a speech on Nov. 7, as "real roughshod, muscle-bound tactics".

In the weeks before the vote the administration made a number of concessions, chiefly to satisfy right-wing interests.

Under US pressure Mexico agreed on Nov. 3 to modifications of the clauses covering trade in sugar, citrus fruit, vegetables, flat glass, wine and home appliances, accelerating the reduction or elimination of tariffs. The Clinton administration also agreed to create a North American Development Bank, and promised that limits would be imposed on Canadian exports of durum wheat (used in the manufacture of pasta) and peanut butter [but see below for Canadian reaction]. It was reported on Nov. 13, however, that the administration had rejected an offer made by congressmen from tobacco-producing states to support NAFTA in return for a reduction of the cigarette tax increases envisaged in the government's health care plan.

Clinton also stressed the essential role of NAFTA in US foreign trade policy. He was due to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Seattle on Nov. 18 [see p. 39742], and pointed out that there was little chance of trade agreements with Asian countries if none could be reached with neighbours. The passage of NAFTA was also seen as crucial to the successful conclusion of the current Uruguay Round of talks in the GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) [see pp. 39714-15; 39761].

Uncertainty prior to the US congressional vote triggered off a 5 per cent fall in the value of the Mexican peso against the US dollar. In order to avoid a devaluation, which would have made Mexican labour cheaper for US employers, the Mexican central bank was obliged to purchase some US\$300,000,000 of government bills at well above the prevailing rate of interest.

Reaction in Canada and Latin America

The Canadian government expressed its displeasure that, in its opinion, free trade with Mexico had been achieved at the expense of protectionism against Canada. The NAFTA agreement had been reached with the former government, and the new Liberal government of Jean Chrétien had stated its intention of seeking to renegotiate certain sections [but see also p. 39728].

Mexico welcomed the agreement unreservedly, and the Mexican Senate approved it on Nov. 22 by 56 votes to 2. In the rest of Latin America the vote was greeted enthusiastically, although it was recognized that even after NAFTA came into effect on Jan. 1, 1994, it would have little short-term impact.

Argentina and Chile declared their support, responding to an undertaking made by President Clinton on Nov. 10 that NAFTA would be extended to other free-market democracies in Latin America; Venezuela was also seen as a likely future participant. Other favourable comments came from the Andean Group, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Honduras and Guatemala.

■ Last article p. 39507; reference article p. R59.

MEXICO

Selection of presidential candidates

The ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) on Nov. 28 selected Luis Donaldo Colosio, the Minister for Social Development, as its candidate for the presidential elections due in August 1994.

Colosio, 43, was known as a loyal associate of President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, and was seen as broadly sharing his political and economic objectives. In particular he had declared his support for the recently negotiated North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA—see p. 39728), while the candidate of the left-wing Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD), Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas Solórzano, had declared his intention of renegotiating the agreement if elected.

It was reported on Nov. 23 that the right-wing National Action Party (PAN) had selected as its candidate Diego Fernandez de Cevallos, 52, the party leader in the Chamber of Deputies. Fernandez, who was on the wing of the party which favoured co-operation with the PRI, had been involved in the negotiation of constitutional reforms earlier in the year [see pp. 39550-51].

Cabinet reshuffle

Manuel Camacho Solís, who had hoped to be the PRI presidential candidate, resigned his Cabinet post as mayor of Mexico City on Nov. 29, reportedly as a mark of protest over the controversial choice of Colosio. However, in the ensuing Cabinet reshuffle Camacho accepted the Foreign Relations portfolio, replacing Fernando Solana Morales who was moved to Education. The post of mayor of Mexico City went to Manuel Aguilara Gómez, and

Carlos Rojas was appointed Social Development Minister in place of Colosio.

Elections in México state - Controversial elections in Yucatán

Elections were held in México state on Nov. 14 in which the PRI was declared the outright winner in all but two seats, namely Cuautitlán, where the PAN candidate won 57 per cent of the vote compared with 34 per cent for the PRI, and Tepetzotlán, where the result was declared too close to call.

Elections in the state of Yucatán on Nov. 28 produced heated controversy and demands for annulment of the poll.

The PRI had claimed victory in the gubernatorial election, the 25 state legislative seats and all Yucatán's 106 mayorships, but was accused of vote-rigging by the PAN, which itself claimed to have won the gubernatorial election, at least six mayorships and one state legislature seat.

Dulce Maria Sauri, interim state governor of Yucatán since February 1991, whose term was not due to end until the end of January 1994, resigned along with six members of her state Cabinet on Dec. 1. Her replacement was named as Ricardo Avila Heredia.

■ Last article p. 39671; accession to APEC p. 39xxx; reference article pp. R45-46.

PUERTO RICO

Referendum on statehood

A non-binding referendum was held in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico on Nov. 14 on the territory's future constitutional relationship with the USA.

An estimated 1,700,000 voters (some 73 per cent of the electorate) participated in the poll which involved a choice between three possible options. A total of 48.4 per cent voted in favour of maintaining the territory's current status as a commonwealth in free association with the USA, while 46.2 per cent voted in favour of applying to become a US state; a further 4.4 per cent voted for outright independence. The remaining 1 per cent abstained as part of a protest campaign over the cost of the referendum.

Puerto Rico had been ceded by Spain to the USA in 1898. Its current status had been adopted in 1952 in a move which gave its 3,700,000 inhabitants US citizenship. A referendum was held on the territory's future status in 1967, when 60 per cent of the inhabitants voted to maintain the status of a US commonwealth.

Although the 1993 referendum was non-binding and any future application for statehood would have required approval by the territory's legislature and by the US Congress, those in favour of becoming a full part of the USA claimed that a majority in the referendum would represent a crucial first step on the road to statehood. As such, the referendum campaign was closely observed by those who advocated statehood for the District of Columbia.

Puerto Rico's two main political parties took sharply partisan positions over the issue.

The New Progressive Party (*Partido Nuevo Progresista*—PNP), led by Governor Pedro J. Rosselló, mounted a lavish campaign in support of statehood, with the participation of former US Presidents George Bush, Ronald Reagan and Gerald Ford.

The Popular Democratic Party (*Partido Popular Democrático* PPD), led by Miguel Hernández Agosto, favoured the maintenance of commonwealth status as a means of safeguarding the territory's culture and language. The PPD also claimed that statehood would entail removing the tax advantages for US companies currently based in the territory, with the result that some 100,000 jobs in manufacturing could be lost. With unemployment currently running at around 17 per cent, such a consequence was widely seen as potentially catastrophic.

■ Reference article pp. R56-57.

CUBA

UN vote on US embargo

The UN General Assembly in a vote on Nov. 3 called for the lifting of the 30-year US trade embargo of Cuba. There were 88 votes in favour and 57 abstentions, with four countries (USA, Israel, Paraguay and Albania) voting against. A similar vote in November 1992 [see p. 39184] had gained only 59 votes, with 71 abstentions and three against.

Economic reform

The Secretary of the Council of Ministers' Executive Committee, Carlos Lage Dávila, announced in a newspaper article published on Oct. 30 a "more profound" reorganization of the state apparatus in order to help the government balance its finances.

In addition to the introduction of an overall tax system, and cuts in the fiscal deficit and national expenditure, Lage declared that there could be a more rational use of personnel, allowing workers to be relocated or made redundant with 60 per cent of their salary. In the agricultural sector there would be a greater drive towards productivity, and dependent bodies would be made more efficient; for example the citrus union would have to reduce its staff from 156 to 25, while also extending the scope of its work.

President Fidel Castro Ruz announced on Nov. 4 that the process of economic reform already in progress was "irreversible", and described as highly significant a visit to the country on Nov. 16 by the Chinese President Jiang Zemin. In particular Castro expressed his interest in the Chinese "socialist experience of the market" [see also p. 39735 for Chinese economic policy changes].

It was announced on Nov. 17 that since the introduction of the law on self-employment in September [see p. 39631], more than 86,500 applications for licences had been received, of which 67,262 had been approved, while about 18,000 were still pending. A total of 1,206 had been denied, chiefly on the grounds that they came from people not authorized to apply, such as graduates, managers and those who had left their place of work without permission.

Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina undertook during November a tour of Venezuela and seven Caribbean countries, principally to discuss trade and economic co-operation, but also attracted some attention by stating in an interview while in Barbados on Nov. 21-22 that Cuba was "moving towards collective leadership", with the appointment of younger government members reflecting "the vitality of the revolutionary process".

Tourist development - Threats against tourists

The lifting of the ban on foreign investment helped to boost the tourist sector, and on Nov. 13 Castro opened the country's first five-star hotel in Cayo Coco (in the northern keys). The hotel belonged to the national organization Cubanacan, but was managed by the Spanish group Guitart Hotels. On the same day contracts were signed for the construction of three more hotels, which would take to 6,000 the number of rooms in Cayo Coco.

At a news conference given in Miami on Nov. 4, however, the head of the paramilitary group Alpha 66, Andres Nazario Sargen, confirmed recent threats made by the group that from Nov. 27 they would mug and even kidnap foreign tourists in Cuba. He claimed that the group had 5,900 members in the USA and a network of 45,000 "collaborators" inside Cuba.

Outflow by boat of disaffected skilled workers and professionals - Defection of athletes

Despite the economic reforms the tide of disaffected Cubans seeking to leave the country continued to rise.

According to US Coastguard figures the number of people crossing the straits of Florida in small, usually home-made rafts, rose from 467 in 1990 to 2,203 in 1992 and in 1993 was by the end of November already at over 3,000. A high proportion of those leaving were skilled workers and professionals, and the reasons usually given were the country's deepening economic crisis and the political restrictions affecting everyday life.

In the course of the Central American and Caribbean Games which were held in Puerto Rico on Nov. 19-30, at least 39 Cuban athletes requested asylum in the USA.

Officials in the Cuban delegation protested to the organizers of the games that Cuban athletes had been harassed by banners, offers of money and the appearance in a Puerto Rican newspaper of a guide on how to defect.

It was reported in Lima (Peru) on Oct. 27 that the Cuban cyclist and Panamerican champion Raul "Pipin" Dominguez had defected, and the Venezuelan authorities confirmed on Oct. 27 that "territorial asylum" had been granted to the 12 members of the Havana University choir who had arrived in the country in September for the University Choirs Festival.

Floods

On the night of Nov. 23-24 severe flooding in the provinces of Guantánamo, Santiago de Cuba and Holguín resulted in 22 deaths, the partial or entire destruction of more than 6,500

homes and the evacuation of more than 47,000 people.

■ Last article pp. 39680-81; reference article p. R37.

HAITI

Non-return of Aristide

The UN Security Council issued a statement on Oct. 29 condemning the failure of Haiti's military leaders to comply with the July Governor's Island agreement [see p. 39551], thus preventing the return to the country by Oct. 30 of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. While international pressure to restore the elected democratic government increased, within Haiti the armed forces and vociferous right-wing political groups sought to withstand that pressure and to replace Aristide.

At a news conference held in the capital, Port-au-Prince, on Oct. 31 Emmanuel Constant, secretary-general of the Front for the Advancement and Progress of Haiti (FRAPH), called on behalf of a coalition of groups opposed to Aristide for the abrogation of the Governor's Island agreement, and the immediate application of Article 149 of the Constitution, under which, in the event of the permanent absence of the president, the chief justice of the Supreme Court would assume power pending the holding of fresh elections. On the same day some 200 people staged a demonstration in the capital celebrating the postponement of Aristide's return, and some of them carried pictures of the Duvaliers (the former dictators).

In a climate of general uncertainty it was reported on Nov. 1 that a group of right-wing parties, acting with army support, had staged a political coup to unseat Prime Minister Robert Malval. This rumour proved unfounded, but on Nov. 5 the senators elected controversially on Jan. 18 [see pp. 39263-64] announced their intention to resume their seats immediately.

Consideration of further sanctions

The United States, along with France, Venezuela and Canada, submitted a resolution to the UN on Nov. 3 calling for the imposition of sanctions against individual military and political leaders who were deliberately obstructing the restoration of democracy. The Malval government was required to draft a list of such people, who would be banned from entering the territory of any member state of the UN and whose foreign assets would be frozen.

The US administration had in October frozen the US-held assets of 41 army and security chiefs, and on Nov. 3 a State Department official declared that Switzerland and Belgium had agreed to follow this lead. It was reported on Nov. 9 that a Swiss bank had frozen the account of Gen. Cédras and that a list of 85 names had been sent to the Swiss authorities by the United States.

Cancellation of talks

The UN Security Council instigated a fresh round of talks scheduled for Nov. 5-6, but on Nov. 5 the UN-OAS special envoy to Haiti, Dante Caputo, cancelled the talks because the army did not attend.

A UN spokesman in Haiti had said on Nov. 3 that the armed forces had agreed in principle and with certain conditions to enter the talks, but in the event Gen. Cédras refused to do so on the grounds that he considered that the limited time given to the sessions suggested that "the conclusions have already been prepared and finalized" and also because he was "outraged that my security and that of the military high command is assured by foreign armed civilians".

In a statement on Nov. 15 the UN Security Council repeated its condemnation of the military authorities for failing to comply with the Governor's Island agreement, reaffirmed its determination to ensure a full enforcement of the current sanctions against Haiti, and stated that it was prepared to consider stronger measures.

Economic impact of embargo

In protest against the international embargo which took effect on Oct. 19, the FRAPH called for general strikes on Oct. 29 and Nov. 4.

FRAPH secretary-general Emmanuel Constant claimed that officials had not been paid for the last two months. In particular FRAPH criticized the government for allowing the withholding of petrol stocks since the imposition of the embargo. At the instigation of the National Association of Gasoline Distributors (apparently with military backing), a Haitian judge, Enock Voltaire, on Nov. 9 and 10 issued court orders to the oil companies Shell, Exxon and Texaco to resume their distribution of petrol. The companies initially resisted the order, but were threatened with the use of police force and the arrest of company officials. Distribution resumed on Nov. 16. It was reported a week later that the situation was in effect little changed, with petrol and gas still scarce, sold at highly inflated prices and available in containers, despite a police ban.

At a news conference on Nov. 9 the Federation of People's Peasant and Union Organizations (FOPPS) denounced the embargo, declaring that unless "the crisis is resolved within 15 days" it would "launch a movement called Operation Rescue", encouraging people "to go to Miami aboard small boats as the only solution we see, other than staying and dying in the country".

Radio reports on Nov. 22 detailed a sharp decline in the national economy and described the government's problems in raising tax revenues.

Malval Initiative - Announcement of intended resignation

At the instigation of Prime Minister Malval a series of discussions was launched on Nov. 24 with opposition leaders, professional sectors, private-sector representatives, the army and human rights organizations. Malval also met with Gen. Cédras on Nov. 25 and again on Nov. 29. Once these multiparty discussions were concluded, Malval intended to go to

Washington to discuss their results with Aristide.

At a press conference held on Nov. 26 Malval declared his intention to resign as prime minister with effect from Dec. 15. He said that he had already informed Aristide, parliament, and, "out of courtesy", the army.

■ Last article p. 39680; reference article pp. R43-44.

JAMAICA

Commuting of death sentences

The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in London (the final court of appeal in the Jamaican justice system and for certain other Commonwealth countries, and on this occasion unusually comprising seven Law Lords) ruled on Nov. 2 that death sentences originally imposed in 1979 on Earl Pratt and Ivan Morgan were to be commuted to life imprisonment, on the grounds that it constituted "an inhuman act to keep a man facing the agony of execution over a long extended period of time". Since their original conviction the two men had been moved to the condemned cells on three occasions but then granted a stay of execution.

In addition the Judicial Committee recommended that if any execution were to be considered more than five years after sentencing, the sentence should be reviewed with a recommendation for commutation.

This ruling had considerable implications in Jamaica and other Caribbean Commonwealth countries. There were reported to be 81 prisoners in Jamaica who had been on death row for over five years, a similar number in Trinidad, and others in Belize. In Jamaica the death sentence was mandatory for murder, and in 1992 the total number of recorded murders was 700. (According to the human rights organization Americas Watch, 22 per cent of the murders had been committed by police officers.) There had been in effect a moratorium on executions since successful protests made by human rights lawyers in 1988.

Pratt and Morgan were being held at the St Catherine's District prison (situated about 15 km west of Kingston), which had been criticized repeatedly by human rights groups for its brutality towards inmates, with prisoners claiming that warders often resorted to beating and intimidation.

■ Last article p. 39592; reference article pp. R44-45.

NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

Curaçao referendum - Resignation of Prime Minister

Maria Liberia-Peters resigned as Prime Minister of the Netherlands Antilles on Nov. 25, following a government defeat in a referen-

dum held on Nov. 19 on the island of Curaçao. Suzanne Romer, the Justice Minister, took over as Prime Minister on Nov. 26.

In the referendum 73 per cent of the Curaçao electorate had chosen overwhelmingly to remain part of the Netherlands Antilles (to which the Netherlands government allocated 275 million guilders (about US\$160 million) in assistance annually), while only 18 per cent supported the government-backed option, which involved a special autonomous status for Curaçao similar to that enjoyed by Aruba [see p. R46]. Only 8 per cent favoured becoming an integral part of the Netherlands and 1 per cent supported full independence.

Following the referendum the Windward Islands People's Movement (WIPM) and the Bonaire Patriotic Union (UPB), two non-Curaçao-based partners in the ruling coalition led by Liberia-Peters's National People's Party (NVP), withdrew their support. The coalition's strength was thereby reduced from 13 to nine members of the 22-member legislature. The NVP was reported to be reconsidering its position on the future status of Curaçao.

■ Reference article pp. R46-47.

GUATEMALA

Suspension of referendum

President Ramiro de León Carpio suffered a further setback to his plans to purge the Congress and the judiciary [see p. 39633] when on Nov. 11 the country's Constitutional Court decided to suspend temporarily the referendum due to take place on Nov. 28.

De León wanted to use the referendum to back his move to dismiss all the deputies and judges, but the Congress wanted instead to introduce a package of constitutional reforms. On Nov. 1 the national bishops' conference proposed that Congress suspend its draft reform and enter direct negotiations with the President on constitutional changes which could be put to a vote at a later date. Dialogue opened on Nov. 9, with de León saying that while he could not ignore the bishops' appeal he would not give up the referendum without agreement on a purge.

A form of compromise, mediated by the bishops, was reached on Nov. 16, described as a "Contract for the Restructuring of the State". Under this agreement all 116 deputies and nine Supreme Court Judges would resign, and fresh legislative elections be held, at a future date yet to be fixed. In the meantime a series of constitutional reforms would be drafted and put to a referendum, which was not expected to be held before the end of the year.

Peace moves

There were a variety of reports in mid-November that efforts were being made to renew the peace talks suspended in May [see p. 39456].

The UN reported that the Guatemalan government and the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) guerrillas had asked the UN Secretary-General to arrange a meeting between them. Meanwhile, according to an article in the *Independent* of Nov. 13, the Norwegian government had announced on Nov. 12 that it would act as broker in

talks between the two sides to be held in Washington on Nov. 15-19. The co-ordinator of the government's peace commission, Hector Rosada, confirmed on Nov. 18 that the government and the URNG would hold a preliminary meeting in the first week of December, but that the government delegation would be without Mgr Rodolfo Quezada Toruño, who had been involved in the talks since they opened in April 1991 [see p. 38141].

Discovery of graves

A group of anthropologists announced on Oct. 30 that they had discovered the remains of some 200 women and children massacred in March 1982 [see p. 31608], in unmarked graves on the outskirts of the village of Rio Negro some 100 km north of the capital.

■ Last article p. 39682; reference article p. R42.

BELIZE

Resignation of Governor-General

Prime Minister Manuel Esquivel confirmed on Nov. 13 that he had asked for the resignation of the Governor-General, Dame Minita Gordon, who had held the office since 1981. The move was attacked by the opposition People's United Party (PUP) as part of a deliberate campaign of political victimization by the United Democratic Party (UDP), in power since its unexpected election victory in June [see p. 39552].

Colville Young was sworn in on Nov. 17 as the new Governor-General.

■ Last article p. 39553; reference article pp. R30-31.

HONDURAS

Presidential and congressional elections

The opposition centre-right Liberal Party of Honduras (PLH) convincingly defeated the ruling right-wing National Party of Honduras (PNH) in the Nov. 28 presidential and congressional elections [for 1989 elections see pp. 37038-39].

The result, subject to final confirmation by the National Electoral Tribunal, gave the PLH presidential candidate Carlos Roberto Reina 52.36 per cent of the vote against 40.74 per cent for Osvaldo Ramos Soto of the PNH, 2.96 per cent for Olban Valladares of the social democratic Innovation and Union Party (PINU), and 1.07 per cent for Marco Orlando Iriarte of the centre-right Christian Democratic Party of Honduras (PDC).

The PLH was expected to achieve a similar margin of victory in the elections held simultaneously to the 148-member unicameral Congress and to 192 municipal councils, and of 20 deputies to the Central American Parliament (Parlacen) [see p. 38336].

An estimated 35 per cent of the 2,700,000 people eligible to vote abstained. Both leading presidential candidates advocated conservative political and economic policies.

■ Last article p. 39592; reference article p. R44.

NICARAGUA

Inter-party agreement on constitutional reforms

Talks under way since early October between the left-wing Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) and right-wing National Opposition Union (UNO) alliance [see p. 39682] resulted in the signing of first general agreements on Nov. 25 on issues concerning civil rights, political rights, the national economy, the legislature and defence. On the same day a new round of talks opened to discuss reforms to the judiciary and executive. The agreements provided for the creation of a Council of Ministers, and also of a Planning and Economy Council, which would have the participation of workers' and private enterprise representatives.

The representative of the National Conservative Party (PNC)—one of the constituent parties of the UNO—Julio Icaza Tijerino, withdrew from the talks before the agreement was signed, reiterating his party's opposition to constitutional amendments and its preference for a constituent assembly.

Talks were continuing on aspects dealing with the judicature and the executive. The FSLN, according to one member of its national directorate, Bayardo Arce Castano, was seeking to limit the power of the executive to issue decrees, particularly on fiscal measures and taxes, so that all government measures would have to be submitted to the National Assembly for approval.

The 10-party UNO alliance had lost its majority in the National Assembly in September, when a split in its ranks gave the FSLN, along with a splinter UNO group, a bloc of 47 of the 92 votes in the National Assembly. The UNO was therefore conducting simultaneous negotiations with the government, whose actions it considered to have contributed to the UNO's loss of its parliamentary majority, and with the FSLN. On Oct. 30 the UNO political council had signed with the FSLN leadership the El Crucero agreement, in which the UNO agreed to the FSLN's proposal of partial constitutional reforms, provided that the substance of these reforms could be settled before Nov. 30. If no consensus were reached, the UNO would revert to its original demand for the election of a constituent assembly. (The approval of constitutional reforms required a 60 per cent majority, and the calling of constituent assembly elections required a two-thirds majority.)

In a radio interview broadcast on Nov. 19, UNO leader Alfredo César Aguirre rejected the suggestion that partial reforms would achieve very little, and said that among other areas UNO would seek changes to "allow the concept of a social market economy" and "a total modification of how the armed forces operate, the type of mechanism to ensure obedience to the executive, responsibilities of armed forces members, duties, powers and the name itself".

Disarmament process

The new Interior Minister, Alfredo Mendieta Artola, announced on Nov. 24 that in the last two years the government had confiscated nearly 53,000 weapons and 147,789 explosive devices "not only in our country but in other countries as well".

Differences with Costa Rica over local travel permits

The Nicaraguan authorities on Nov. 18 declared their intention of preventing Costa Rican citizens without passports from entering Nicaraguan territory, in retaliation for an incident earlier that day when at least 50 Nicaraguans with local travel permits had been refused entry into Costa Rica.

■ Last article p. 39682; reference article p. R47.

EL SALVADOR

Upsurge in political violence

The bodies of two murdered members of the Farabundo Martí Liberation Front (FMLN) were discovered early in November. Both had hands tied behind their backs and had been shot in the head, signs generally regarded as the hallmarks of the right-wing death squads. Since the beginning of 1993, 25 FMLN members had been found murdered [see p. 39604].

The government refused to acknowledge that the deaths had any political motivation, although Vice-President Francisco Merino stated on Nov. 5 that the government could not guarantee the personal safety of individuals in the FMLN. The previous day he had denied an allegation made by Joaquín Villalobos of the FMLN that the government was concealing information which would identify death-squad members, saying that an inter-ministerial commission had already been formed to investigate the existence of illegal armed groups.

Arrival of UN mission

On Nov. 5 the UN Security Council condemned the recent spate of killings, and announced that a mission headed by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Mark Goulding, would arrive in El Salvador on Nov. 8.

The objectives of the mission were to press the government to speed up both voter registration and the transfer of land to former guerrillas, and also to establish a commission to investigate the killings. The government and the FMLN differed over the composition of the commission. Goulding announced on Nov. 15 that agreement was nearly finalized, and that the commission would comprise representatives from the government, from the Human Rights Ombudsman's Office and from UN Observers for El Salvador (ONUSAL).

The UN visit coincided with the declassification by the US administration of a number of previously secret documents which revealed that the Reagan and Bush administrations had

possessed detailed information on death-squad activity from the early 1980s right up to 1990. In particular these documents named Merino and also Armando Calderón Sol, the mayor of San Salvador and presidential candidate for the ruling Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA) in the March 1994 election. President Alfredo Cristiani said on Nov. 11 that the documents were not the result of "serious" investigations and were part of a smear campaign against ARENA in the run up to the election.

Prison riot

A riot broke out on Nov. 18 at the Francisco Gotera prison some 170 km east of the capital. The death toll was given as 27, with another 30 wounded in this, the fourth violent incident at the prison in three months.

■ Last articles pp. 39633; 39684; reference article pp. R39-40.

VENEZUELA

Allegations of coup conspiracy

In the run-up to elections due on Dec. 5, government ministers denounced an alleged conspiracy to disrupt the electoral process.

One incident seen as a deliberate attempt to embarrass the government was the case made public in October, in which President Ramón Velásquez had been persuaded to sign a pardon for drug trafficker Larry Tovar Acuna. The Tovar case, and a series of recent car and letter bombings, were described by Justice Minister Fermín Marmol León on Nov. 2 as "an attempt to destabilize the system". Defence Minister Vice-Adml. Rádamés Muñoz León announced on Nov. 12 that four people had been arrested on subversion charges, and three days later he detailed the existence of a conspiracy to prevent the elections by officers involved in the abortive coups of Feb. 4 and Nov. 27, 1992 [see pp. 38759-60 and 39185-86]. The army accused the secretary-general of the left-wing party Radical Cause, Pablo Medina, of having received stolen army weapons, and called for him to face charges as an accessory to military rebellion. Medina denied the charges.

After disturbances in several parts of the country on Nov. 26 the government temporarily suspended all school classes, and the current privatization process was on Nov. 14 postponed until after the elections.

Banking reforms

A new finance and banking law was signed by Velásquez on Nov. 2, to take effect on Jan. 1, 1994. The main provisions were: (i) to allow foreign financial institutions to hold majority shares in Venezuelan banks; (ii) to make the Superintendency of Banks independent and increase its powers; (iii) to introduce more rigorous capital requirements for banks; and (iv) to give financial institutions a modernized legal framework.

■ Last article p. 39684; reference article p. R58.

COLOMBIA

Murder of Senate vice-president

The vice-president of the Senate, Dario Londono Carmona (45), was shot by a group of four people while teaching at Medellín University on Nov. 5. Londono, who was described by President César Gaviria Trujillo as "one of the strongest defenders of democratic principles [and] the basic rights of citizens", died of his injuries two days later.

Some reports stated that a cell of the guerrilla National Liberation Army (ELN) was responsible, and on Nov. 19 the army and security services asserted that they had established the ELN's involvement. Other reports claimed that Londono had been killed by a commando linked to drug traffickers and the armed forces.

One radio broadcast stated that a new group called Death to the Protectors of the Cali (drug) Cartel had claimed responsibility. This group was said to have emerged in response to the approval by the Congress on Nov. 2 of a new penal procedure code, which called on people involved in drug trafficking to surrender voluntarily in return for greatly reduced penalties. Prison terms of up to five years would be commuted to suspended sentences, terms of five to eight years reduced to one-quarter length and terms of over eight years to one-third length.

Anti-Escobar vigilante group - Killing of Escobar

Another anti-drug vigilante group which had emerged earlier in the year [see p. 39457], Pepes ("Persecuted by Pablo Escobar", a reference to the leader of the Medellín Cartel), resumed its activities when on Nov. 17 it kidnapped the tutor at the Escobar household, Alba Lodona. There were also reports of a number of arson attacks on the property of Escobar's friends.

Pedro Escobar, who had been a fugitive since his escape from La Catedral prison in July 1992 [see p. 39001], was shot dead by security forces in Medellín on Dec. 2 while "resisting arrest". His son Juan Pablo, currently in protective police custody with the rest of his family, declared his intention of inheriting his father's drug empire and of avenging his father's death.

The German authorities on Nov. 28 had deported Escobar's wife and children from Frankfurt; they had arrived earlier the same day from Colombia, requesting political asylum.

Death of captive Italian consul

The body of the Italian consul in Bucaramanga, Giuseppe Guargalia Nordacci, was found on Nov. 18. He had been kidnapped in July, apparently by the Revolutionary Armed Forces (FARC), and had died in their custody earlier in November of a heart attack after a number of unsuccessful attempts to get medical supplies to him.

■ Last article p. 39595; reference article pp. R35-36.

PERU

Result of constitutional referendum

The official results of the constitutional referendum held on Oct. 31 [see pp. 39683-84] were released on Nov. 9.

The government's margin of victory, in the region of 5 per cent, was much narrower than it had expected. While the vote had been almost two-thirds in favour in Lima, over half of the departments had rejected it. President Alberto Keinya Fujimori had hoped for a "yes" figure close to his own personal poll rating of about 70 per cent.

Relaxation of anti-terrorist laws

The Democratic Constituent Congress (CCD) approved a new law on Nov. 13 re-establishing civil guarantees for terrorist suspects, which had been suspended under an anti-terrorist law in May 1992 [see p. 38909].

Convictions could now be reviewed without the defendant needing to present fresh evidence; suspects in terrorism cases could no longer be tried in absentia, and could be freed on bail. A further law which took effect on Nov. 26 restored the right of habeas corpus.

A series of bombings in Lima in mid-November killed one person and seriously injuring four others.

Responsibility was attributed to the Maoist Shining Path (*Sendero Luminoso*) guerrillas for the attacks against a bank on Nov. 18, near the Defence Ministry on Nov. 19 and at the US-Peruvian Cultural Institute on Nov. 20. Another car bomb attack on Nov. 18, however, was described by police as the work of the Tupac Amari Revolutionary Movement (MRTA).

The discovery of five bodies on a police shooting range outside Lima in mid-November led to renewed calls for a judicial investigation into the disappearance of nine students and a professor in July 1992 [see p. 39411]. The remains of five other bodies had been found in July 1993.

In October Fujimori had announced that the army had launched its own investigation into the case, and had detained four officers, including Maj. Santiago Martín Rivas. Human rights organizations were sceptical about the outcome of this investigation, alleging that the murders had been carried out by an army death squad linked to the President's security adviser, Capt. Vladimiro Montesinos and the Army C.-in-C., Gen. Nicolás de Bari Hermoza Rios. The army's inquiry had been opened only after government assurances that no senior officers would be called before a congressional inquiry.

Relations with Venezuela

Full diplomatic relations with Venezuela, suspended in April 1992 after the presidential coup [see p. 38846], were restored on Nov. 5.

■ Last article pp. 39683-84; reference article pp. R49-50.

BOLIVIA

Banzer's retirement from politics

Former dictator Gen. (retd) Hugo Banzer Suárez announced on Nov. 13 his resignation as leader of the Democratic Nationalist Action (ADN) and his retirement from political life. He left the country on Nov. 14, apparently bound for Miami, USA.

President in 1971-78, Banzer had stood as a presidential candidate in subsequent elections, most recently in June 1993 [see p. 39505] when he gained the second-largest share of the vote as candidate of the ruling Patriotic Accord alliance. Politicians both within and outside the ADN suggested that his retirement might be only temporary.

■ Last article p. 39683; reference article pp. R31-32.

CHILE

Sentence in Letelier murder trial

Two former senior officers of the National Intelligence Direction (DINA, the secret police under the 1973-90 Pinochet regime) received prison sentences on Nov. 12 for planning the car bombing in Washington, USA, in 1976 which killed the exiled socialist leader and former Foreign Minister Orlando Letelier and a passenger in the car, Ronni Moffit.

Gen. (retd) Manuel Contreras and Col. Pedro Espinoza were given prison terms of seven and six years respectively - shorter sentences than those usually accorded for murder, because of the time which had elapsed since the crime.

Contreras and Espinoza, who were charged in November 1992 [see p. 39187], lodged an appeal on Nov. 21 on the grounds that their conviction had been based on evidence gathered in the USA which, they claimed, was inadmissible in a Chilean court. They would both remain free pending a final decision by the Supreme Court.

Letelier's sister and family lawyer Fabiola Letelier celebrated the verdict as being of "enormous importance as it shows that in the hands of a determined judge, justice can be done", adding: "This is the first time that Pinochet officers have been convicted of such an abuse."

■ Last article p. 39683; reference article pp. RR34-35.

ARGENTINA

Conclusion of "Democratic Pact"

Agreement on a series of controversial proposed constitutional reforms was reportedly reached on Nov. 14 between President Carlos Menem and the leader of the opposition Radical Civic Union (UCR), Raul Alfonsín Foulkes.

The government had previously stated that the proposals (already approved by the Senate—see p.

39682) would be put to a plebiscite, scheduled for Nov. 21 [ibid.]. Following the Nov. 14 agreement, Menem declared on Nov. 15 that a plebiscite could still be held, at a later date, if the UCR did not endorse the agreement at its national convention on Dec. 3. On Nov. 29 the government and the UCR agreed to "conclude all agreements on constitutional reform" by Dec. 1.

Both Menem and Alfonsín had initially denied reports of their meetings; however, on Nov. 10 the Secretary General of the Presidency, Eduardo Bauza, announced officially that they had met on Nov. 4. (They had earlier met on Sept. 6.)

The two measures which finally made agreement possible were the UCR's unanimous election of Alfonsín as party leader on Nov. 12 and Menem's decision on Nov. 13 (officially confirmed on Nov. 15) to suspend the plebiscite. Bauza had stated on Nov. 2 that "in order to have a consistent dialogue the UCR must have a unified leadership and speak with a single voice".

The main changes advanced in the pact (many of which would need to be more fully detailed before being implemented) were as follows.

- (1) An incumbent president would be permitted to seek re-election for a second term (thus allowing Menem himself to stand again).
- (2) The presidential and vice-presidential terms of office would be reduced from six years to four.
- (3) The system of electing the president and vice-president by electoral college would be abolished in favour of a direct two-round ballot.
- (4) The requirement that the president be a Roman Catholic "consistent with the constitutional principle of freedom of religion" would be abolished.
- (5) Provision would be made for the appointment of a co-ordinating minister answerable to the president and to the Congress, who could be removed by a two-thirds majority vote in the Congress.
- (6) The mayor of Buenos Aires would be directly elected (rather than appointed by the president).
- (7) Three (rather than two) senators for each province, of whom one would be a minority and two would be majority representatives, would be directly elected, and a senator's mandate would be reduced from the current nine years.

Commitments were also made to the independence of the judiciary.

In his speech of Nov. 15 Menem expressed the hope that the new constitution would be in force by mid-1994. He considered that "some points" of the reforms "must be improved", and declared his personal dislike for the idea of a co-ordinating minister. He also said that "other political parties will be summoned to a round of talks so they can make proposals they deem suitable for the reform".

Ratification of Treaty of Tlatelolco on nuclear non-proliferation

After repeated delays the Congress finally on Nov. 10 ratified the 1967 Treaty of Tlatelolco for the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons in Latin America. Argentina had agreed to ratify the treaty in November 1990 [see p. 37914], subject to the modification of certain

clauses to protect industrial secrets, and had been under pressure from the US administration to speed up its ratification. Argentina had previously held that the treaty discriminated against developing countries, and the ratification was thus seen as reflecting the country's increasingly pro-Western foreign policy.

■ Last article pp. 39682-83; reference article pp. R28-29.

BRAZIL

Congressional corruption investigation

As Brazil's most recent corruption scandal continued to unfold, a former president of the Chamber of Deputies and leading member of the Brazilian Democratic Movement (PMDB), Ibsen Pinheiro, resigned on Nov. 9 as constitutional review co-ordinator amid allegations that he was involved in a large-scale fraud. Pinheiro denied the charge, but said that he had decided to resign to avoid embarrassment to the PMDB.

Pinheiro was the most senior official thus far implicated in the scandal, which came to light when a high-ranking government official was charged with murder in mid-October. José Carlos Alves dos Santos, a budget director for the Finance Ministry and a former adviser to the Congress budget commission, was said to have killed his wife when she discovered his role in the disappearance of huge sums of government money. Funds officially designated for the poor had been diverted into the private bank accounts of government officials and politicians through false charities or non-existent public works projects. Members of the congressional committee established to investigate the fraud had reportedly begun to receive death threats and required police protection.

The specific charge against Pinheiro related to three payments (amounting to the equivalent of some US\$35,500) made to him by a colleague, Genebaldo Correa, whose own financial affairs were already under investigation.

It was reported on Nov. 25 that Correa had been replaced as PMDB leader in the Chamber of Deputies by Tarcisio Delgado. In late November it was reported that the party faction not linked with any of the charges might break away to form an alliance with another party for the 1994 elections.

Arrest of Farias in Thailand

The scandal was also linked to Paulo César Farias, named in 1992 at the time of the impeachment of the then President Fernando Collor [see p. 39188] as the mastermind behind a major fraud.

Farias, who left Brazil in mid-1993, was found to be in the UK in October, and on Nov. 3 the High Court in London accepted a petition filed by the Brazilian government for his extradition, even though the two countries did not have an extradition treaty. Farias left the UK secretly, but on Nov. 29 the Brazilian authorities announced that he had

been arrested in Bangkok the previous day and that they were seeking his extradition.

Extension of anti-corruption law

President Itamar Franco announced on Nov. 9 that the existing law on unjust enrichment would be extended by decree to cover all civil servants, as well as elected office-holders and members of the Congress, members of government and the judiciary. Under the law anyone found guilty of corruption would be liable to have their assets impounded and their political rights suspended for 10 years. A further decree would require all institutions to submit an annual income statement.

Announcement of date for 1994 elections - Resignation of minister

The government announced on Nov. 19 that elections for the presidency, governorships and the Congress would be held on Oct. 3, 1994, with a run-off ballot if necessary on Nov. 15. All candidates currently holding public posts would have to resign them by April 2, 1994, and May 31 was set as the deadline for electors to be registered.

On Nov. 19 the Minister of Industry, Commerce and Tourism, José Eduardo Andrade Vieira, announced his intention to resign at the end of the year, but declared that he would not be a candidate in the 1994 elections.

Agreement on debt rescheduling

Agreement was reached on Nov. 29 under the terms of the 1989 so-called "Brady plan" [see pp. 36541-42], on the rescheduling of US\$35,000 million owed to foreign banks and other private creditors; in exchange for the forgiveness of some loans, Brazil was committed to converting other loans into 30-year bonds, backed by US Treasury bonds.

The agreement would not become final until Brazil, with the largest foreign debt of any developing country, had worked out an agreement on economic reform with the International Monetary Fund, for which creditors had set a deadline of April 15, 1994.

Last article p. 39684; reference article pp. R32-33.

IN BRIEF

PANAMA: José Raúl Moulino was appointed on Nov. 1 as the new Foreign Minister, replacing Julio E. Linares who died of a heart attack in New York on Oct. 26.

ST CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS: A general election held on Nov. 29 resulted in a hung parliament, with the People's Action Movement (PAM) of outgoing Prime Minister Kennedy Simmonds losing ground; it had hitherto held six of the 11 seats for elected representatives in the unicameral National Assembly, but retained only four, the same number as were won by the St Kitts-Nevis Labour Party (SKLP).

URUGUAY: Raúl Iturría replaced Interior Minister Juan Andrés Ramírez who resigned on Nov. 4 to join the *Blanco* (National Party) campaign for forthcoming general elections (due in Nov. 94).

ASIA - PACIFIC

CHINA

Adoption of new reform document

The central committee of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) held an important plenum on Nov. 10-14 which was designed to accelerate greatly the market reform process, with particular emphasis on the reform of the financial sector.

The third plenary session of the 14th CCP congress was widely billed in advance as likely to be the most important CCP meeting since 1978 when the decision was taken to move towards a market-orientated system. At the conclusion of the plenum the Chinese official news agency, Xinhua, stated that the meeting had adopted a 50-point plan which was designed to achieve economic restructuring by the end of the decade. The plan was said to include radical reforms in areas such as banking, taxation, investment and foreign trade, and was designed to create better conditions for the development of a market economy.

A communiqué issued by the CCP on Nov. 14 confirmed that the state sector would remain "the mainstay" of the economy, but that there should be a separation of "government administration from enterprise management". The communiqué also stated the belief that "establishing a socialist market economic system means making the market a fundamental factor in the disposition of resources under state macro-control". The inclusion in the communiqué of frequent references to China's elder statesman leader Deng Xiaoping was widely seen as a confirmation of Deng's paramount position, despite his advanced age and rumoured infirmity.

The decisions agreed upon at the plenum were released on Nov. 16 in the form of a 16,000-word document, entitled *Decision on issues concerning the establishment of socialist market economic structure*, which also confirmed that the CCP was to retain its monopoly of political power.

The document suggested that the government planned to retain majority ownership only of the largest state-owned enterprises. These would be reformed through "corporatization": they would be given functioning boards of directors and, unless the government was the sole owner, a joint-stock structure. Smaller state-owned firms would be privatized.

Market pricing would be extended from goods markets (where, currently, some 90 per cent of prices were set by market forces) to sectors such as labour, property and financial services. It was also planned that the government would exercise an increasing degree of control through traditional macro-economic mechanisms rather than through administrative orders, thereby providing a stronger economic role for the central bank.

A social security system, mainly covering pensions, health-care and unemployment protection,

was to be established and funded through increases in income tax. Private insurance schemes were also to be permitted to operate.

The increase in the scope and level of income tax, to become effective from January 1994, was to be implemented in conjunction with the separation of central government taxes—including customs tariffs, indirect taxes and income tax—from local taxes on businesses and personal income. This represented a means of increasing the central government's share of the tax yield at the expense of the provinces. By reversing the central government's declining revenue base—its tax yield as a share of gross national product (GNP) had been halved over the past 15 years—the government was seeking to establish a stable source of revenue which would rise in proportion to national output.

It was acknowledged unofficially that the plenum had also agreed to abandon the short-term austerity programme adopted by Vice-Premier and Governor of the people's Bank of China Zhu Rongji, who had taken charge of economic policy formulation in June 1993 [see p. 39509].

Although Zhu's credit squeeze had been effective in choking off spiralling levels of economic growth and inflationary pressure, this had been achieved only with a commensurate fall in output, as many cash-starved state enterprises had suspended production and sent home their workers.

Relations with USA

President Jiang Zemin, who was in the USA to attend the meeting of Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) countries in Seattle [see p. 39742], met with his US counterpart Bill Clinton on Nov. 19. It was the first meeting between the heads of state of the two countries for almost five years. Jiang described it as "a new and good beginning" in Sino-US relations, a view endorsed by Clinton. US officials expressed disappointment that Jiang had not offered concessions on human rights or trade issues, but described the meeting as an important step in halting the downward spiral which had characterized bilateral relations over the previous six months.

Prior to the meeting the USA had extended a gesture of goodwill by allowing the sale of a US\$8,000,000 meteorological super-computer to China. This had hitherto been blocked under the prohibition on exporting advanced technology to China, imposed in August 1993 in retaliation for China's sale of missile technology to Pakistan [see pp. 39598; 39600]. The administration also decided to allow the sale of components for China's nuclear power plants, and was considering allowing the release of some of the US-made satellites affected by the ban.

Evidence that both sides were eager to improve relations was apparent with the visit to China on Oct. 31-Nov. 2 of Charles Freeman, Assistant Secretary of Defence for regional security affairs, for talks with defence officials and representatives of

the People's Liberation Army (PLA). Freeman was the first senior US Defence Department official to visit China since 1989, and his trip marked the end of the ban on high-level Sino-US military contacts imposed by the US government in the aftermath of the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre.

Jiang also used his attendance at the APEC summit to hold individual meetings with the leaders of Australia, Indonesia, South Korea, Japan, and Thailand.

Relations with Russia and Germany

Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev visited Beijing on Nov. 8-11, thereby becoming the first Russian Defence Minister to visit the country since the collapse of the Soviet Union. The visit culminated on Nov. 11 with the signing of a five-year defence agreement which provided for increased military exchanges.

Although the precise details of the agreement remained undisclosed, Grachev stressed that the expanded Sino-Russian co-operation which it covered would not be detrimental to any third country. He also emphasized that the issue of arms sales had not been raised during his visit as this was a matter which required discussion at a more senior level.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany arrived in Beijing on Nov. 15 for a six-day visit accompanied by an entourage of 180 ministers, government officials and entrepreneurs.

During the course of his visit Kohl met President Jiang and Premier Li Peng and signed a number of economic co-operation agreements. In a pointed reference to the continued US sanctions against China, Kohl stressed that Germany was eager to collaborate with China in the sphere of high technology projects.

■ Last article p. 39688; reference article pp. R65-66.

TAIWAN

Local elections - Merger of opposition parties

Local elections were held on Nov. 27 for five mayors and 18 county magistrates. With some 70 candidates competing for the 23 positions, and the ruling Kuomintang (KMT) struggling to retain control of a majority of cities and counties, the contest was seen as a crucial indicator of the KMT's continuing level of support.

The KMT's campaign was hampered by internal discord, with party candidates competing against each other in several contests. The party's chairman, President Lee Teng-hui, broke with tradition by becoming deeply involved in the campaign. He spent several weeks campaigning for KMT candidates, and attempted to avoid a split in the KMT vote by intervening on numerous occasions to persuade unofficial KMT candidates to withdraw from the contest. In cases where such persuasion failed to achieve its purpose, Lee sanctioned expulsions, including the mass expulsion of 19 party members

on Nov. 3, several of whom were renegade candidates.

The KMT faced a vigorous challenge from the opposition Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) which, according to some polls, was recording a level of popular support in excess of 45 per cent. The ruling party was also challenged by the Chinese New Party (CNP), a group led by Jaw Shau-kong which had split from the KMT in August [see pp. 39598-99]. Prior to the local elections, the CNP announced that it was merging with the Chinese Social Democratic Party (CSDP). The new party, which retained the CNP name, immediately became the third-largest party in the country.

The elections saw the KMT win 15 of the 23 posts, the same number overall as it had held prior to the poll. However, the party's share of the vote fell to 47 per cent, the first occasion on which it had dropped below 50 per cent. The DPP won six of the contests, only half as many as the party's leadership had predicted.

Relations with China

The recent spate of aircraft hijackings from mainland China to Taiwan continued during November with a further three incidents between Nov. 5 and Nov. 12. The latest cases brought the total number of civilian aircraft hijacked from China to Taiwan since April 1993 to seven, and strained the fragile improvement in relations between the two countries.

Although in such cases the aircraft were immediately returned, the perpetrators were tried in Taiwan (where they faced prison sentences of around 10 years) rather than being repatriated to China where they were likely to face the death penalty. While China insisted that the most effective means of combating the hijackings was to return the perpetrators to the mainland, Taiwan asserted that more effective security at Chinese airports would eradicate the problem. There was also increasing concern that the hijackings were being orchestrated by the Chinese government as a means of gaining intelligence on Taiwan's air defences. Speaking after the seventh incident, on Nov. 12, the Taiwanese Minister for National Defence, Sun Chen, suggested that the hijackings might be "a ploy by Beijing to detect the capability and limitations of our airforce".

The issue of the repatriation of hijackers, together with other bilateral concerns such as illegal immigration and fishing disputes, was discussed in the second round of working-level talks between China's Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits (ARATS) and Taiwan's Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF). The six days of talks, held in the Chinese coastal city of Xiamen, ended on Nov. 7 without any formal agreements. [For historic Koo-Wang meeting held in Singapore in April see pp. 39416-17; for first round of talks in late August see p. 39638.]

With both agencies stating their desire to resume talks in December, the likely atmosphere of such a meeting was improved by an announcement by Interior Minister Wu Po-hsiung, on Nov. 18, that the Taiwanese Cabi-

net had agreed to begin repatriating Chinese hijackers. Whether they would be deported immediately after their conviction or following the completion of their sentence remained undecided.

■ Last article p. 39689; reference article pp. R82-83.

NORTH KOREA

Continued tension over nuclear inspections issue

The refusal of the North Korean government to submit its nuclear facilities to full international inspection continued to be a cause of international tension during November.

UN General Assembly resolution on relations with IAEA

The UN General Assembly on Nov. 1 passed Resolution 1-13 by 140 votes to one (North Korea) with nine abstentions (including China, Cuba, Iraq and Vietnam), urging North Korea to "co-operate immediately" with the demands of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for inspection of North Korean nuclear installations.

The IAEA had referred the matter to the General Assembly after IAEA-North Korean talks reached an impasse in October [see p. 39689]. Hans Blix, Director-General of the IAEA, informed delegates that North Korea was preventing routine inspections and was continuing to resist the agency's demand for "special inspection" of two sites in the Yongbyon nuclear complex. While suggesting that North Korea had increased its resistance to the terms of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT), Blix stopped short of accusing the country of being in defiance of that treaty, which, it was thought, would have led to calls for the Security Council to impose sanctions.

The North Korean government dismissed the UN resolution as an unreasonable interference with North Korean sovereignty.

Relations with USA and South Korea

US policy towards the North Korean nuclear inspections issue appeared somewhat inconsistent in November. At the beginning of the month Defence Secretary Les Aspin made a four-day visit to Japan and South Korea. In both countries he was informed of fears that US attempts to impose UN sanctions against North Korea could provoke the regime into hostile military action. Nevertheless, it was agreed in Seoul on Nov. 3 that, in the event of Blix declaring that the North Korea had defied the NPT, then both countries would push for the imposition of sanctions.

In what appeared to be a retaliatory move against the Aspin talks, on Nov. 3 the North cancelled the fourth round of working-level inter-Korean talks concerning the exchange of special presidential envoys, due to be held on the following day. The talks had begun in October and represented the first direct contact between the two Korean states since January 1993 [see p. 39689].

Pressure against the North Korean regime was stepped up on Nov. 7 when US President Bill Clinton gave a television interview in which he stated unequivocally that North Korea "cannot be allowed to develop a nuclear bomb". He also warned that "any military attack on South Korea is a military attack on the United States".

The North Korean Foreign Ministry responded by reiterating its claim that the country had neither the intention nor the need to develop nuclear weapons, and that the North Korean government and the US administration had already agreed to resolve outstanding nuclear issues through negotiation. In the face of further US suggestions that sanctions were imminent, the North Korean government suggested on Nov. 11 that the inspections issue could be resolved as part of a package of bilateral measures which would include an end to US "hostility" towards North Korea. Among the measures specifically suggested were the continuing of the US-North Korean talks which had been held earlier in the year, and the cancellation of the US-South Korean "Team Spirit" military exercises held in the early part of every year.

With China's willingness to agree with the imposition of sanctions against North Korea far from certain, it was widely reported that the US administration was prepared to offer concessions in order to solve the dispute. On Nov. 22, however, South Korean President Kim Young Sam stated his opposition to offering concessions until North Korea had resumed talks with the South and had allowed access to IAEA inspectors. After long and apparently tough talks between Clinton and Kim in Washington DC on Nov. 23, the US President offered North Korea the prospect of talks on "a thorough, broad, approach", but insisted that this did not mean that the USA was relaxing its demands. If North Korea was to abandon its nuclear programme and submit to inspections, stated Clinton, then "the door would be open on a wide range of issues". If it did not, he warned, then "it risks the increased opposition of the entire international community". Clinton also reaffirmed his commitment to South Korea's security, but both he and Kim agreed that the imposition of UN sanctions against the North was not "a particularly attractive option".

■ Last article p. 39689; reference article R73-74.

SOUTH KOREA

Imprisonment of Hyundai founder

Chung Ju Yung, the founder and honorary chairman of Hyundai, the giant South Korean conglomerate, was imprisoned on Nov. 1 after being convicted of embezzlement.

Chung, 78, was found guilty of having illegally diverted more than 50,000 million won (US\$62,000,000) from Hyundai Heavy Industries (HHI), the company's shipbuilding subsidiary, to help finance his campaign in the December 1992

South Korean presidential elections. He was also found guilty of forcing Hyundai employees to assist with the campaign. Despite Chung's claims that the money from HHI had been raised from the sale of his personal shares in the company, and that the workers involved in his campaign were volunteers, he had been indicted in February 1993. After the prison sentence was imposed, Chung was permitted to remain at liberty pending an appeal on the grounds of his advanced age and his past contribution to the country's economic development.

The charges against Chung had surfaced in the final days of the election campaign, in which he had been a candidate for the United People's Party (UPP), an organization which he had founded in an effort to break the monopoly of power enjoyed by the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP). The allegations were widely considered to have been responsible for his poor third-place finish in the poll [see pp. 39234-35], after which the UPP all but collapsed as a credible political party. Chung had claimed that the charges had been politically inspired by the ruling party's candidate and eventual winner of the election, Kim Young Sam of the DLP.

Launch of joint military exercise

South Korean and US troops launched a major six-day military exercise on Nov. 15, despite North Korean claims that the move was "provocative" and could have "irretrievable consequences".

The exercise, named "Foil Eagle 93", was believed to have involved almost all of the 37,000 US troops stationed in South Korea and many of the host country's forces of 650,000. It was designed to test how efficiently an attack from the North could be repulsed, and was seen as having particular relevance because of the increased tension on the Korean peninsula arising from North Korea's refusal to submit to international nuclear inspection [see p. 39736], and because of recent claims that North Korea had been massing troops near the Demilitarized Zone which formed the de facto border between the two Korean states.

Visit by Japanese Prime Minister - Apology for past actions

The Prime Minister of Japan, Morihiro Hosokawa, made his first official visit to South Korea on Nov. 6-7. During talks with President Kim on Nov. 6, Hosokawa apologized and expressed remorse for Japan's colonial rule of the Korean peninsula between 1910 and 1945.

In what was the most forthright apology ever offered to Korea by a Japanese leader, Hosokawa characterized the colonial rulers as "assailants". He stopped short of using the word "aggression", however, a term which he had used in August to describe Japan's role in the Pacific War, and for which he had been severely criticized by conservatives within the Japanese Diet. At a joint press conference held on Nov. 7, Hosokawa reiterated his expression of remorse, and the two leaders pledged their determination to strengthen the close relationship between their two countries. They agreed to seek closer economic co-operation and to work together to resolve regional issues such as the threat

posed by North Korea's alleged development of nuclear weapons, and the dumping of Russian nuclear waste into the Sea of Japan [see p. 39715].

The Japanese Foreign Ministry confirmed on Nov. 8 that Hosokawa's apology had also been directed at North Korea, but refused to comment on the question of whether similarly frank apologies would be offered to other countries which had been the victims of Japanese imperialism.

Talks with US President

Following his attendance at the meeting of Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation countries in Seattle on Nov. 14-20 [see p. 39742], President Kim held separate talks with US President Bill Clinton on Nov. 23 to discuss the issue of North Korea's alleged development of nuclear weapons [see above].

■ Last article p. 39689; reference article pp. R74-75.

JAPAN

Development of construction scandal

The scandal within Japan's construction industry, centring upon the allegations that politicians had accepted bribes from the country's leading building contractors [see p. 39690], continued to escalate during November and reached a new level of seriousness by implicating Ichiro Ozawa, an influential figure in the seven-party coalition of Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa.

The construction scandal, which had broken on June 29, had led to the arrest of several leading executives and local politicians. By the end of October, however, the scandal had begun to implicate senior national politicians. Shin Kiyoyama, the vice-president of Kajima Corp.—one of the country's largest contractors—was arrested on Oct. 26 on charges of having made payments of \$185,000 to the Governor of Ibaraki Prefecture, Fujio Takeuchi, in order to secure contracts to build a new prefectural government office and other local projects. Takeuchi, who had already been arrested for having accepted bribes from other construction companies [ibid.], admitted receiving the payments.

Following his arrest it was widely reported in the Japanese media on Oct. 29 that Kiyoyama had admitted making secret biannual payments of up to \$93,000 to former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita. The donations were alleged to have begun in 1989, the year that Takeshita was forced from office in the Recruit-Cosmos scandal. The reports cited "unnamed sources" in the Tokyo public prosecutor's office, a customary Japanese method of releasing information on investigations. Takeshita's aides denied the allegation and claimed that he had not met Kiyoyama since 1984.

Prosecutors also arrested Suguru Akiyama, a senior officer at Kajima's Tokyo head office, on Oct. 28 on suspicion of having destroyed evidence relating to the payment of bribes.

Implication of Ozawa

The scandal implicated the government when, on Nov. 5, Ozawa admitted that he had received 5,000,000 yen (US\$46,250) from Kajima. His admission followed reports that he had received biannual payments from the company for several years.

Ozawa stressed that the payment which he had received was technically legal in that it had not broken the Political Fund Control Law which prohibited an individual politician from accepting undisclosed contributions in excess of 1,500,000 yen per year from a single company. Ozawa's claim that the donation was legal implied that it had been divided into packages of less than 1,500,000 yen and distributed among his many fund-raising organizations.

Although not a member of the Hosokawa government, Ozawa was a leading figure within *Shinseito* (Japan Renewal Party), the second-largest component of the governing coalition. His defection from the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) had been one of the main causes of the LDP's removal from office at the July 1993 elections, after 38 years in power. His key role in the coalition which had replaced the LDP, however, had led some critics to question the degree to which the new government represented a genuine break from the past. His involvement in the scandal was considered acutely embarrassing for Hosokawa at a time when his government was struggling to enact legislation to reform the country's electoral system and to combat corruption. This was accentuated by the opposition LDP's insistence on a thorough investigation of the matter, which included the possibility of forcing Ozawa to give evidence.

A former Construction Minister, Kishiro Nakamura, who had served in the last LDP Cabinet, became the third national politician to be implicated in the scandal. Newspaper reports on Nov. 14 suggested that Kiyoyama had admitted giving Nakamura payments of 10,000,000 yen. Nakamura, who was currently an opposition member of the Diet, refused to confirm or deny the allegation.

Arrest of leading businessman

Ryoei Saito, a millionaire businessman and the honorary chairman of Daishowa Paper Manufacturing Company, was arrested on Nov. 11 on charges of having bribed the governor of Miyagi prefecture. Saito was accused of having paid 100 million yen to Shuntaro Honma (who was also arrested) in return for the lifting of a ban on the construction of a golf course. Honma had already been arrested for allegedly accepting payments from a construction company [see p. 39690].

Saito was a renowned art collector who had spent vast sums on the acquisition of paintings. In 1990 he had paid \$82,500,000 for Vincent Van Gogh's *Portrait of Dr Gachet*, the highest price ever paid for a work of art.

Implication of Hosokawa in Sagawa Kyubin scandal

In addition to the difficulties presented to the Prime Minister by Ozawa's implication in the construction scandal, Hosokawa was also afflicted by the long-running Sagawa Kyubin scandal which had already claimed several

politician victims, the most notable of whom had been LDP vice-president Shin Kanemaru [see pp. 39049-50; 39556].

It was reported by the Tokyo daily newspaper *Ashhi Shimbun* on Nov. 23 that Hosokawa had himself received political donations of 19,000,000 yen from the Sagawa Kyubin group in 1990 and 1991. The information was allegedly obtained from a document submitted to a legislative committee by Hosokawa. It appeared that the donations had not been illegal because they had been broken into units of less than 1,500,000 yen. Nevertheless, both the LDP and the Japan Communist Party (JCP) suggested that they would demand further investigation of the matter, to determine whether Hosokawa, whose popularity was based upon his reputation for scrupulous probity, had sought to conceal the donations.

Approval of political reform bill by lower house

The Hosokawa government pressed ahead with its plans for political reform. After attempting unsuccessfully to negotiate an agreement with the LDP, on Nov. 18 the Prime Minister departed from tradition by using his majority in the House of Representatives (the lower chamber of the Diet) to gain approval by 270 to 226 votes for a package of four reform bills.

The bills would alter the country's discredited multi-member constituency system to one of a mixture of single-seat constituencies and party lists. There would be much stricter control over the receipt of political donations, and politicians found guilty of corruption would be prohibited from holding further office.

The vote exposed splits in the LDP as 13 party members defied instruction by voting for the bills. Six others, including former Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, abstained. Five members of the Social Democratic Party of Japan (SDPJ), the largest component of the Hosokawa coalition, also defied party instructions by voting against the bills, on the grounds that the new electoral system would disadvantage their party.

After their approval by the House of Representatives, the bills were sent for consideration to the upper chamber, the House of Councillors.

Relations with USA

Hosokawa held talks with US President Bill Clinton on Nov. 19 in Seattle, where they were gathered for the summit meeting of Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) countries [see p. 39742].

Pressure from the USA for Japan to reflate its economy through cuts in income tax, and to open its markets, particularly the heavily protected rice market, to foreign competition, was less intense than anticipated. It was recognized that achieving approval for the political reform package by the end of the year was Hosokawa's main priority. The two leaders stated their support for the current bilateral talks, aimed at negotiating access to Japanese markets, and expressed the hope that a basic agreement

could be concluded by January 1994. They agreed to meet next on Feb. 11, 1994.

US Defence Secretary Les Aspin, speaking on Nov. 2 during a visit to Tokyo, sought to allay Japanese concerns over the Clinton administration's proposal for a new Japanese missile defence system [see p. 39637]. Japan, he said, would not have to become involved in extensive technology exchanges with the USA in return for assistance in the construction and deployment of a missile defence system upgraded to meet the potential threat of an attack from North Korea.

■ Last article pp. 39689-90; reference article pp. R69-70.

KAZAKHSTAN

First round of mass privatization

The first round of mass privatisation began in Kazakhstan on Nov. 2, with the free distribution of vouchers in parts of the country. Recipients were to entrust their vouchers to one of 41 investment funds responsible for acquiring enterprises made available by the state for purchase. Existing legislation had succeeded in transferring only 8.2 per cent of state enterprises to the private sector, through auctions and direct purchases, according to the Kazakhstani Kaztag news agency on Oct. 27. The mass privatization process was reportedly intended to speed up this process.

■ Last article p. 39511; reference article p. R72.

KIRGIZSTAN

Abolition of censorship

The Russian Ostankino television channel reported on Oct. 30 that Kirgiz President Askar Akeyev had issued a decree reversing government censorship allegedly introduced in August. Ostankino claimed that its correspondent in Kirgizstan, Vladimir Fedorov, had been declared persona non grata by the Kirgiz government on Sept. 14.

[For the introduction of Kirgizstan's new currency, see p. 39747.]

■ Last article p. 39639; reference article p. R72-73.

AFGHANISTAN

Anti-terrorist agreement with Egypt

President Burhanuddin Rabbani agreed during a visit to Egypt on Nov. 15-17 to disallow the use of Afghan territory by Egyptian Islamic militants opposed to the Egyptian government.

Reports suggested, however, that Afghanistan's fundamentalist Prime Minister, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar was unlikely to honour Rabbani's agreement with Egypt, or to extradite Egyptian militants,

some of whom had fought alongside his guerrillas during the 10-year Afghan civil war. There was growing international concern over the use of Afghanistan as a sanctuary for those practising Islamic terrorist activity.

■ Last articles pp. 39599-600; 39691; reference article p. R69.

PAKISTAN

Election of President

Farooq Ahmed Leghari was sworn in for a five-year term as Pakistan's new President on Nov. 14.

In the elections the previous day Leghari, nominated by the ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP), received 274 votes as against 168 for his main rival, acting President Wasim Sajjad who was backed by the Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz group) (PML-N). Voting was restricted to members of the National Assembly, the Senate and the country's four provincial assemblies.

Leghari, 53, was a chieftain of the powerful Baluchi Leghari tribe and a graduate of Oxford University. A PPP party stalwart and a trusted lieutenant of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, he had been named Foreign Minister in October [see p. 39685]. His election as President was expected to boost the PPP's chances of becoming the first government to complete its five-year tenure.

Leghari said that he would seek to act impartially between all parties and that he would cease to be a member of the PPP. He also promised to support the repeal of the controversial Eighth Amendment to the Constitution which granted wide discretionary powers to the President including powers to dissolve parliament and to dismiss elected governments see [pp. 39412; 39512].

Appointment of new Foreign Minister

Ahmed Asif Ali, a member of the Pakistan Muslim League (Junejo group) (PML-J), replaced Leghari as Foreign Minister on Nov. 17.

Arrest of Murtaza Bhutto - Inquiry into fire

Murtaza Bhutto, the brother of Prime Minister Bhutto and head of the banned *al Zulfiqar* organization, who had fled the country in 1977, was arrested in Karachi on Nov. 4 after returning from exile in Syria to be sworn in as a member of the Sind provincial assembly [see pp. 39600; 39685]. He appeared in court on Nov. 6 and denied terrorist charges brought against him.

The government ordered an official inquiry into the cause of a fire which swept through the country's parliament building in Islamabad on Nov. 9 gutting the National Assembly (lower house) chamber.

Talks with USA

Talks between Bhutto and visiting US Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian affairs, Robin Raphael on Nov. 8 were described by Bhutto as "opening a window of opportunity for improved US-Pakistan relations".

On Nov. 26 a Foreign Office spokesman welcomed a US State Department assessment which ques-

tioned the usefulness of the Pressler Amendment, under which the USA had in October 1990 suspended economic and military aid to Pakistan [see p. 37764].

Speculation that the government might have agreed to "cap" its nuclear programme in return for the easing of US sanctions was dismissed by Foreign Minister Ali who said on Nov. 28 that Pakistan's "present peaceful [nuclear] programme would continue".

Agreement with IMF and World Bank

An agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for fresh credit facilities totalling SDR 1,200 million (US\$1,670 million) over the next three years was announced by the financial adviser to the Prime Minister, V. A. Jafarey, on Nov. 11.

The credits, due to come before the IMF board for approval in February 1994, involved an enhanced structural adjustment facility (ESAF), an extended fund facility (EFF) and a public-sector adjustment loan. The standby credit approved by the IMF in September [see p. 39640] was not included in the new agreement.

The World Bank on Nov. 16 signed an agreement providing US\$490 million to help fund the private Hub thermal power station estimated to cost some US\$1,800 million.

■ Last article p. 39685; reference article pp. R78-79.

INDIA

State elections - Other internal developments

Partial results of elections to state assemblies in Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan were announced on Nov. 30. The pro-Hindu *Bharatiya Janata Party* (BJP) lost control of the first two and failed to secure an overall majority in the third. In Delhi, however, where elections were held for the first time after 40 years of central rule, the BJP won a clear majority.

Results of elections to state assemblies in Madhya Pradesh and Mizoram were as yet undeclared.

In Uttar Pradesh, the most populous and politically coveted of the four states, the BJP won 176 of the 425 State Assembly seats; the low-caste populist alliance of the *Samajwadi Party* (SP) and *Bahujan Samaj Party* (BSP) also won 176 seats, Congress (I) won 28, the centre-left *Janata Dal* (JD) won 28, the Communist Party of India (CPI) won three, and the Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPI-M) and the *Janata Party* (JP) won one each. Nine seats were secured by independents and others. Three results remained undeclared.

In Himachal Pradesh Congress (I) won a two-thirds majority, securing 52 of the 68 assembly seats, with the BJP winning eight seats, and independents and others winning seven, one result remaining undeclared. In Rajasthan where all 199 results of the elections were officially declared, the BJP emerged as the single largest party with 95 seats. Congress (I) secured 76, the JD six, the CPI(M) one, and independents 21.

With one result still undeclared on Nov. 30 for the 70-member Delhi assembly, the BJP had already secured a two-thirds majority, having won 48 seats; Congress (I) won 14, and the JD secured four. Three seats went to independents and others.

Voting in state elections had been organized in early November as part of a follow-up to the central government's order of December 1992 suspending the formerly BJP-controlled state assemblies of Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh for their alleged complicity in the destruction of the Ayodhya mosque [see pp. 39222; 39467]. The first poll for a regional assembly in New Delhi was held on Nov. 6. Himachal Pradesh voted on Nov. 9 and the states of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram on Nov. 11, 18, 27 and 30 respectively. Election-related violence was sporadic, with up to 11 people reported killed in Uttar Pradesh by Nov. 11.

Charges in connection with March bombing in Bombay

Police in Bombay filed charges against 189 people on Nov. 5 in connection with bomb explosions which killed more than 250 people in Bombay in March [see pp. 39370; 39414].

Charges against suspected killers of Rajiv Gandhi

A special court hearing the case relating to the assassination in May 1991 of the then Prime Minister and Congress (I) president Rajiv Gandhi [see p. 38175], which opened in May [see p. 39467], charged 26 Indians and Sri Lankan Tamils with the killing.

Rise in external debts

A Finance Ministry report on Nov. 4 showed that the country's external debts, which in March 1986 had stood at US\$37,300 million, had risen by \$3,200 million in the year to March 1993 to US\$85,400 million, largely because of an increase in loans from multilateral lending agencies. The report stressed, however, that "external indebtedness as such is not an evil as long as the debt incurred is utilised efficiently".

On Nov. 5 the Asian Development Bank (ADB) criticized India's aid utilization record as the worst among recipients of ADB funds. It said that some US\$4,000 million in ADB funds for 20 projects were still awaiting utilization.

Foreign relations

Relations with USA

Tension in relations with the USA mounted after the government expressed outrage over remarks made in Washington by the US Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian affairs, Robin Raphael, on Oct. 29 which appeared to question the accession of Kashmir to India in October 1947. Raphael was quoted as saying that "we do not recognize the Instrument of Accession [to India] as meaning that Kashmir is for evermore an integral part of India".

Enforcement of Indo-UK extradition treaty

The Indo-UK extradition treaty approved in January 1992 and signed in September of that year [see pp. 38727; 39099], came into force on Nov. 15. The instruments of ratification, which also covered the confiscation of assets of people involved in terrorist activity [ibid.], were exchanged in New Delhi by visiting UK Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary Douglas Hurd and Indian External Affairs Minister Dinesh Singh.

Visit by Netherlands Prime Minister

The Netherlands Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers requested access by human rights groups to Kashmir during an official visit on Nov. 26-28.

Developments in states

Ending of mosque siege in Kashmir

Armed Kashmiri separatists besieged by Indian security forces at the Hazratbal mosque in Srinagar since mid-October [see p. 39686] surrendered peacefully on Nov. 16. The end of the siege came after weeks of intensive negotiations during which the government sought the help of Muslim clergymen, promilitant politicians and family members close to the militants. Almost 60 people died during demonstrations triggered by the siege.

A landmine planted by the outlawed guerrilla People's War Group (PWG) exploded in Mahboobnagar district, Andhra Pradesh, on Nov. 14, killing 10 people. On Nov. 4 the PWG had bombed two government buildings in Hyderabad (causing no casualties) in retaliation for a recent police campaign against its members.

The governor of Himachal Pradesh, Gulsher Ahmed, resigned on Nov. 23 amid allegations that he had misused his position by helping his son contest a state assembly seat. Temporary charge was given to the Punjab governor, Surendra Nath.

Seven people were killed in a bomb attack at Dimapur railway station in Nagaland on Nov. 8. The attack was blamed by police on Naga tribesmen agitating for a separate Naga homeland [see pp. 39601; 39640; 39686].

■ Last article pp. 39685-86; reference article pp. R67-69.

SRI LANKA

LTTE offensive

More than 1,000 government soldiers and rebels belonging to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) were reported killed during an LTTE assault on Nov. 11 on an army base at Pooneryn on the shores of the Jaffna lagoon, west of the Elephant Pass.

The attack, in which more than 500 soldiers died and some 1,500 were forced to withdraw, was described as the worst military defeat yet in the

army's war against the separatist LTTE. In October the LTTE had inflicted heavy casualties on the army while forcing a similar withdrawal from Kilali port, north-west of Pooneryn, in an attempt to weaken the army's siege of Jaffna [see p. 39687].

On Nov. 13 an army spokesman said that seaborne troops backed by helicopter gunships had dispersed LTTE guerrillas at Pooneryn and had re-established contacts with soldiers trapped inside the base. LTTE forces were reported to have retreated in boats to the Jaffna peninsula after ransacking the armoury and destroying the complex of army and naval camps.

1994 budget

The government's 1994 budget presented to Parliament on Nov. 11 retained a 3.5 per cent defence levy which it said was "a temporary measure made necessary by the emergency situation in Sri Lanka".

Ruling against appointment of UNP members as provincial chief ministers

The Court of Appeal on Oct. 8 ruled that the appointment of Gamini Jayawickrema Perera and M. S. Amarisir, both members of the ruling United National Party (UNP), as Chief Minister respectively of the Northwestern and Southern Provinces, were "illegal and unreasonable" as they did not command a majority in the councils.

On Oct. 9 G. M. Premachandra of the Democratic United National Front (DUNF) was sworn in as Chief Minister of the Northwestern Province, bringing to three the number of the country's seven provinces controlled by the opposition, including Colombo.

UNP nomination of Anura Bandaranaike

Anura Bandaranaike, who announced his resignation from the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) in October [see p. 39687], thus also relinquishing his parliamentary seat, was reported on Nov. 4 to have joined the UNP and to have been invited to stand as a UNP member of parliament. A UNP-nominated member of parliament was said to have resigned his seat in order to create a vacancy. (By-elections had been abolished; successors to members of parliament were appointed by the head of the party which nominated the outgoing member at the previous election.)

■ Last article p. 39687; reference article pp. R81-82.

MALDIVES

Cabinet reshuffle

President Maumoun Abdul Gayoom marked the commencement of his fourth term of office [see p. 39691] by appointing a new 23-member Cabinet on Nov. 11.

He himself retained Defence, National Security, Finance and Treasury, but the only other unchanged portfolios were Foreign Affairs (Fathulla Jameel), Chief Justice (Moosa Fathy) and Minister

at the President's Office (Mohamed Zahir Husain).

Among the many changes Abdulla Hameed moved from Education to become Speaker of the Citizens' Majlis (Assembly), taking over from Ahmed Zaki who became permanent representative at the UN. Umar Zahir moved across from Home Affairs and Sports to Construction and Public Works, and Abdulla Jameel was promoted from Atolls Administration to Home Affairs.

■ Last article p. 39691; reference article pp. R76-77.

CAMBODIA

Installation of Royal Government

The Provisional National Government of Cambodia formed in July 1993 [see p. 39559] was formally replaced on Oct. 23 by a new Royal Government.

21 state secretaries were also appointed.

Extension of UNTAC presence

The UN Security Council on Nov. 4 unanimously adopted resolution 879 by which it extended the deployment of military police and medical elements of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) to Dec. 31, 1993. Other UNTAC elements withdrew in

Royal Government of Cambodia

- *Prince Norodom Ranariddh First Prime Minister
- *Hun Sen Second Prime Minister
- *Prince Norodom Sereivut Vice-Prime Minister; Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation
- *Sar Kheng Vice-Prime Minister; Interior
- Ing Kiet State Minister
- *Keat Chhon State Minister (Rehabilitation and Development)
- *Ung Phan State Minister (Inspection)
- Van Molivan State Minister (Cultural Affairs, Fine Arts, Landscaping and Urbanization)
- *Chem Snguon State Minister; Justice
- *Sam Rangsi State Minister; Economy and Finance
- Sok An Minister (Office of the Council of Ministers)
- *Veng Sereivut Minister (Office of the Council of Ministers); Tourism
- *Tea Banh National Defence
- *Tie Chamrat National Defence
- *Yu Hokkri Interior
- *Ieng Muli Press
- *Ing Kiet Public Works and Transport
- Kong Sam-ol Agriculture, Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries
- *Ing Huot Education, Youth Affairs and Sports
- Va Huot Commerce
- *Pu Sothirak Industry, Minerals and Energy
- Chea Chanto Planning
- *New appointment.
- *Altered responsibilities.

November as set out in the UN's original timetable.

■ Last article pp. 39687-88; reference article pp. R63-65.

VIETNAM

Aid conference

The World Bank organized an aid donors' conference for Vietnam in Paris on Nov. 9-10. The conference was attended by representatives of some 24 governments and 17 international organizations. The USA was not represented.

Delegates approved aid worth some US\$1,860 million, over half in grants (mainly in the form of soft loans) from governments, including US\$550 million from Japan and substantial loans from France, South Korea, Australia and the UK. The remainder was pledged by multilateral agencies, mainly the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank [see p. 39687 for IMF credits approved in October].

Vietnam was reported to have requested some US\$9,000 million to fund more than 70 economic and social infrastructure projects.

Prison sentences on Buddhist monks

On Nov. 15 eight people, including four Buddhist monks, were sentenced to prison terms of up to four years after being found guilty of instigating anti-government unrest in the central city of Hue in May 1993.

The unrest was the culmination of a long dispute between the government and monks of the Unified Buddhist Church, which was strongly opposed to state control of religion. During the unrest a man had voluntarily immolated himself in scenes reminiscent of Buddhist agitation against the military regimes of South Vietnam in the 1960s.

Relations with China

President Le Duc Anh visited China in mid-November for talks with high-ranking Chinese officials, including President Jiang Zemin and Premier Li Peng. It was the first visit to China by a Vietnamese head of state since the visit in 1955 by Ho Chi Minh, then President of North Vietnam.

■ Last article p. 39687; reference article pp. R85-86.

MALAYSIA

Election of Anwar as UMNO deputy president

Finance Minister Anwar Ibrahim was elected as deputy president of the United Malays National Organization (UMNO, the dominant party in the ruling *Barisan Nasional* coalition), at the party's general assembly held on Nov. 3-6 [for last general assembly, held in 1990, see p. 37919]. Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed was re-elected unopposed as UMNO president.

According to many analysts Anwar's emphatic victory, and the victory of his so-called "Vision Team" of supporters in elections for lesser posts, paved the

way for a smooth transition of power upon Mahathir's retirement.

Anwar effectively secured the deputy presidency on Oct. 21 when the incumbent, Ghafar Baba, withdrew from the elections after receiving only seven nominations from UMNO divisions to defend the post, against 145 nominations for Anwar. On Oct. 15 Ghafar submitted his resignation as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National and Rural Development. The latter portfolio was subsequently taken on by Mahathir; the deputy premiership remained vacant as of late November.

The three party vice-presidents elected by the assembly were all members of the "Vision Team", namely Muhyiddin Yassin (Chief Minister of Johore), Najib Tun Razak (Defence Minister) and Mohammed Taib (Chief Minister of Selangor). The three replaced Anwar himself and two of his major rivals, Foreign Affairs Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Agriculture Minister Sanusi Junid.

Rahim Tamby Chik, Chief Minister of Malacca, was elected as UMNO youth president. In addition, the party's new 25-member Supreme Council was dominated by Anwar's supporters.

Approval of sharia legislation by Kelantan legislature

On Nov. 25 the state assembly in the north-eastern state of Kelantan unanimously passed a law to introduce the *sharia*—Islamic—penal system. However, in order for the legislation to take effect, the country's Constitution had to be amended by the federal parliament.

Kelantan was governed by a coalition led by the *Parti Islam Se-Malaysia* (PAS), which sought the establishment of the Islamic system in society and the nation. The two UMNO members of the assembly voted in favour of the legislation.

Deterioration in relations with Australia

Malaysia's relations with Australia deteriorated in late November after Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating described Mahathir as a "recalcitrant" for boycotting the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) conference held in Seattle, USA, in mid-November [see p. 39742].

On Nov. 27 Malaysian Information Minister Mohamad Rahmat described Keating's comment as a "humiliation" for Mahathir and announced that Malaysia had suspended all broadcasting co-operation with Australia. The influential UMNO youth wing called for the introduction of a "buy Australia last" trade policy unless Keating apologized for the comment.

■ Last article p. 39602; reference article p. R76.

PHILIPPINES

Ceasefire with MNLF

Negotiators from the government of the Philippines and from the rebel Muslim Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), on Nov. 7 signed a memorandum of understanding and an interim ceasefire agreement in Jakarta, the capital of Indonesia. The cessation of hostilities was due to last for a three-month period during which the negotiations would continue

in an attempt to reach a final settlement of the conflict.

The MNLF was the largest of the Muslim guerrilla organizations which had been waging a separatist war against the government in Mindanao and its neighbouring southern islands since 1968. At its height, the conflict had involved heavy fighting and claimed the lives of an estimated 50,000 people. In recent years, however, the guerrilla campaign had dwindled to bombings, kidnappings and sporadic clashes with the security forces. On Oct. 25, the day on which the Jakarta peace talks began, 22 people were reportedly killed in fighting in the Mindanao province of Sultan Kudarat.

Speaking after the signing of the ceasefire, MNLF chairman Nur Misuari expressed optimism over the possibility of achieving a final settlement. He acknowledged, however, that the two sides remained separated by a number of issues, and that the interim ceasefire was merely the "first stage of our journey" and that there remained "many miles for us to travel in our quest for peace".

Presidential visit to USA

President Fidel Ramos met US President Bill Clinton for talks in Washington on Nov. 22. The two leaders emphasized the continuing close relationship between their countries, notwithstanding the closure of the two huge US military bases in the Philippines at Clark Field and Subic Bay in November 1991 and September 1992 respectively [see p. 38677; 39100].

Clinton stressed that neither the ending of the Cold War nor the closure of the bases had "changed the basis for continuing co-operation between our two nations". Such co-operation, he suggested, was founded upon investment ties, mutual security interests, and shared democratic ideals. In concurring with this view, Ramos emphasized the economic relationship between the two countries and appealed for greater access to US markets for Philippine goods. The two leaders also agreed to begin negotiating an extradition treaty, which would be the first such arrangement between their two countries, and to pursue a legal assistance treaty to facilitate the exchange of evidence.

Ramos, together with an entourage of Cabinet Ministers and businessmen, was making a tour of the USA in an effort to attract US investment. He had also attended the gathering of Asian and Pacific rim leaders in Seattle earlier in the month [see p. 39742].

■ Last article p. 39643; reference article pp. R79-80.

INDONESIA

Abolition of national lottery

On Nov. 25 the government bowed to pressure from Muslim leaders and students and abolished the country's weekly national lottery (the Philanthropic Donation with Prizes—SDSB).

Muslim anti-gambling protests against the lottery had started in 1991 but had increased in early November. For the first time since President

Suharto's assumption of power in the mid-1960s, on Nov. 10 demonstrators were permitted to gather outside the presidential palace in Jakarta to voice their opposition to the lottery.

New Fretilin leader

Portuguese television confirmed on Nov. 2 that Konis Santana had officially taken over the military leadership of the guerrilla Front for an Independent East Timor (Fretilin) [see p. 39420].

■ Last article p. 39688; reference article pp. R69-71.

AUSTRALIA

Formulation of Aboriginal land rights legislation

In a rare televised address to the country, Prime Minister Paul Keating on Nov. 15 called upon his fellow citizens to use the recent judicial recognition of Aboriginal land rights [see pp. 38966; 39515; 39691] as an opportunity to "transcend the history of dispossession" of Australia's indigenous population.

Keating, who had taken a key personal role in recent government moves on the lands rights issue, made his address on the eve of the introduction of a land rights bill into the Australian Federal Parliament. The legislation, introduced on Nov. 16 into the lower house, aimed to protect native title in cases where Aborigines were able to show a close and continuous link to tribal lands [see p. 39691]. It provided for the establishment of native title tribunals to adjudicate on land claims and to assess compensation payments. It also proposed the creation of a National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Fund to assist dispossessed native peoples to acquire and maintain land. Keating expressed the hope that "most aspects of the bill" would be in force by Jan. 1, 1994.

Hunt for serial killer

Three young hitch-hikers whose bodies were found on Nov. 1-4 after a massive police search in Belanglo State Forest, 100 km south-west of Sydney, were believed to be victims of a serial killer. The bodies of seven of the killer's presumed victims (including five overseas tourists) had been found since September 1992, and police also began reopening other cases of tourists who had disappeared or been murdered. In 1992 a total of 166,000 hitch-hikers had visited Australia, forming a major part of the tourist industry.

■ Last article p. 39691; reference article pp. 87-88.

NEW ZEALAND

General election

A general election held on Nov. 6 resulted in the return of the National Party government of Jim Bolger with an overall majority of one seat in the (newly expanded—see below) 99-member unicameral Parliament. In a simultaneous referendum, voters chose to replace the

New Zealand general election results

Party	Percentage of vote	Seats won	Seats at dissolution	Seats won in 1990
National Party	35.2	50	63	68
Labour Party	34.7	45	29	28
Alliance	18.7	2	3	-
NZFP	9.0	2	1	-
Others	2.4	0	1	1*
Total*	100	99	97	97

*The number of seats in the Parliament was increased to 99 prior to the 1993 election.

*The only successful candidate in the 1990 election who did not belong to one of the two main parties was Jim Anderton, who went on to lead the Alliance Party in the 1993 contest.

current simple plurality electoral system with a multi-member system of proportional representation.

The National Party had come to power in the previous general election in October 1990 [see p. 37781]. While continuing the Labour Party's *laissez-faire* approach to the economy, the Bolger government also made deep cuts in the country's extensive welfare system. Although from late 1991 onwards the economy had shown signs of growth, there was widespread disquiet over the government's social policies, particularly its restructuring of the healthcare system and the imposition of charges for services which had previously been free.

The somewhat lacklustre election campaign saw the National Party concentrating upon its economic record, and the Labour Party, under the leadership of Mike Moore, seeking to emphasize its traditional role as the party most committed to issues of public health and welfare. The traditional two-party contest was undermined, however, by the presence of two parties which had been formed since the 1990 election.

The Alliance was a group of five parties headed by Jim Anderton, a former Labour Party president and legislator. In 1989 Anderton had created a break-away New Labour Party, which polled 5 per cent of the vote in the 1990 general election [see pp. 36658; 37781]. The New Labour Party then joined with the Greens, the Democrats, the Liberals (a small party formed by two breakaway National Party legislators) and *Mana Motuhake* (a small Maori nationalist party created in 1980) to form the Alliance.

The other new party, the New Zealand First Party (NZFP), had been formed in July 1993 by Winston Peters, who had been dismissed from Bolger's Cabinet in 1991 [see p. R93(1992)] and who had become increasingly disaffected with his party's social policies. Although his new group remained somewhat rudimentary in terms of its national organization, opinion polls had consistently shown Peters to be the most popular politician in the country.

Initial results - Narrowness of NP majority

Preliminary results suggested that the National Party had won 49 seats—one short of an overall majority—compared with 46 for Labour and two seats each for the Alliance and

the NZFP. There followed a period of intensive speculation over whether Bolger would attempt to continue in office at the head of a minority government, or whether he would be ousted by an opposition coalition. In the event, the speculation proved needless as, following the counting of the 300,000 votes cast by New Zealanders living abroad, it was declared on Nov. 17 that the National Party had secured 50 seats compared with the Labour Party's 45.

Bolger welcomed the result and, while acknowledging that his majority was "wafer thin", suggested that there was no reason why his government could not remain in office for its full three-year term.

Adoption of new electoral system

The decision to move to a new voting system for future general elections was made by a vote of 54 per cent in favour of adopting a system of mixed member proportional (MMP) representation, compared with 46 per cent for retaining the current system of simple plurality. The MMP system—which would involve expanding the number of seats in the legislature to 120, half of which would represent constituencies and with the other half being drawn from party lists—had already been endorsed in a preliminary referendum held in 1992 [see p. 39101].

Last article pp. 39643-44; reference article pp. R92-3.

BELAU**Approval of Compact of Free Association**

The uncertainty over the future constitutional status of Belau (also known as Palau) appeared to have ended on Nov. 9 with the holding of an eighth referendum. Provisional results indicated that 68 per cent of voters had approved a constitutional amendment which opened the way for the implementation of a Compact of Free Association with the USA.

Although signed in 1986, the Compact—under which Belau was granted self-government while the USA retained responsibility for the territory's defence and foreign policy—had not become operative, as the rights which it granted to the USA conflicted with clauses of the territory's constitution which forbade the entry, storage, or disposal of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons. Repeated referendums upon the issue had resulted in approval for the Compact, but had fallen short of the 75 per cent majority required to amend the constitution in order to accommodate the Compact. In November 1992, however, a further referendum reduced the requirement for the approval of constitutional amendments to a simple majority [see p. 39197].

Although a number of procedural issues remained to be resolved, and law suits by opponents of the Compact remained pending, the vote appeared to facilitate the ending of the UN Trust Territory of the Pacific (of which

Belau was the last remaining component), and to enable Belau to attain the same status as the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and the Marshall Islands [see pp. R88-89; R91].

■ Last article p. 39197; reference article p. R88.

APEC**Ministerial meeting**

Leaders and senior ministers from the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) grouping held their fifth conference in Seattle, USA, on Nov. 14-20 [for fourth conference in September 1992 see p. 39101]. Mexico and Papua New Guinea were admitted as new members, raising total membership to 17.

The chief substantive issue under discussion was the future of APEC. Reports suggested that some Asian countries had resisted plans for a more closely structured body, fearing that it would become a vehicle for US trading interests and foreign domination.

In a statement adopted at the end of a two-day meeting on Nov. 18-19, APEC foreign and trade ministers decided to postpone consideration of a proposal by APEC's board of experts setting 1996 as a target date for the creation of a free trade "community". Ministers agreed, however, to create a Committee on Trade and Investment to lower the cost of trading among Pacific Rim nations, and to strengthen working groups to develop uniformity in Asian rules on telecommunications, tourism and environment.

Appealing for an urgent conclusion to the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), APEC ministers supported the US position that there could be no further modification of the November 1992 agreement between the USA and the European Union (EU, previously the EC) on agricultural subsidies [see pp. 39176-77].

Heads of government meeting

Twelve APEC heads of government as well as senior economic officials from Hong Kong, Malaysia and Taiwan, attended an informal summit at the invitation of US President Bill Clinton on Nov. 19-20. The summit, the first of its kind since the creation of the organization in 1989, was notable for the absence of Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed, who boycotted its proceedings after warning that the USA intended to dominate Asian countries in the guise of promoting APEC.

An "economic vision statement" issued after the meeting called for an international trading system to be made a priority, and for improved trading relations between the USA and the six-member Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN). It was also agreed to create a non-binding code on investment and technology transfers and to establish an APEC Education Programme to broaden intellectual exchanges.

The next such summit was scheduled to be held in Jakarta, Indonesia, in 1994.

■ Last article p. 39101; reference article p. R86.

IN BRIEF

BANGLADESH: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia paid an official visit on Nov. 22-24 to Nepal, where she held talks with her Nepali counterpart, Girija Prasad Koirala, on sharing water resources and on regional co-operation. (Zia had taken over as chair of the South Asian Association for Regional Co-Operation (SAARC) at its summit in Dhaka—see p. 39421.)

LAOS: President Le Duc Anh of Vietnam paid an official visit on Nov. 1-3 to Laos, where he held talks with his Laotian counterpart Nouhak Phoum-

savan and Prime Minister Khamtay Siphandon; both sides reiterated their determination to safeguard their special relationship as well as their readiness to co-operate with the new Cambodian government.

SINGAPORE: The chief executive of the state Trade Development Board, Yeo Seng Tek, was suspended on Nov. 3 after being arrested on charges of theft and forgery; he was later released on bail of S\$600,000 (US\$1.00=S\$1.591 as at Nov. 1, 1993). Yeo was accused of forging documents and stealing some S\$2,000,000 from the Jurong Town Corporation of which he was the chairman.

SOLOMON ISLANDS: The dismissal of a Cabinet Minister on Nov. 9 and the resignation of two other ministers on Nov. 12 severely destabilized the government of Francis Billy Hilili by undermining its overall majority in the legislature.

EUROPE

BOSNIA-HERCEGOVINA

Resumption of negotiations

An international conference on the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina was held on Nov. 29 in Geneva, attended by President Alija Izetbegovic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, President Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia and President Franjo Tudjman of Croatia, together with Bosnian Croat leader Mate Boban and Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, the foreign ministers of the 12 member states of the European Union (EU, formerly the EC), the co-chairs of the International Conference on the former Yugoslavia, Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg, and Charles Redman and Vitaly Churkin, special envoys of the US and Russian presidents.

The conference and subsequent negotiations revived the plan for a "Union of Three Republics", discussed in the previous round of negotiations, which had ended without agreement on Sept. 20 [see p. 39645]. The meeting was the result of a new strategy adopted by a meeting of EU foreign ministers in Luxembourg on Nov. 22, which had settled on a "carrot-and-stick" approach to encourage the Bosnian Serbs to compromise on a peace agreement. This strategy envisaged that Bosnian Serb forces should concede additional land currently controlled by them, totalling some 3 to 4 per cent of Bosnia-Herzegovina's territory, in order to increase the size of the planned Muslim republic (to approximately one-third of Bosnian territory). In return for Serb territorial concessions, the EU foreign ministers offered the prospect that international sanctions against the rump Yugoslavia would gradually be suspended.

The Luxembourg strategy was based on an earlier plan proposed by the Foreign Ministers of France and Germany, Alain Juppé and

Klaus Kinkel, on Nov. 8. However, unlike the Franco-German plan, the Luxembourg strategy sought to impose additional conditions on the warring parties, and thereby to avoid the accusation that Serb aggression was being rewarded by allowing Serb forces to retain much of the territory they had captured. The strategy therefore also envisaged a ceasefire and guaranteed free passage for humanitarian aid, and embraced the idea of "globalization" [see p. 39695]—a further agreement to relieve ethnic tension in other parts of the former Yugoslavia [for relations between Croatia and the separatist, majority-Serb Krajina region, see p. 39744-45].

Serb leaders had given a tentative welcome to the Franco-German plan, but a senior Bosnian Serb official said on Nov. 23 that "the document adopted in Luxembourg [did] not offer very much". Karadzic, according to the *Financial Times* of Nov. 29, demanded the lifting of sanctions in advance of territorial concessions.

Hopes for an agreement were diminished when on Nov. 25 Owen himself expressed doubt over the viability of the plan for a "Union of Three Republics".

Owen said that the US failure to back the Vance-Owen plan in May [see p. 39649] had ended hopes to retain a multi-ethnic Bosnia, and had "made the emergence of an independent, predominantly Muslim republic inevitable".

Earlier in the month, on Nov. 4, Owen had said that "all three sides have made the decision to go on fighting" and that there would be "a very nasty humanitarian disaster this winter".

Apparently running counter to any Serb commitment to the idea of a "Union of Three Republics", Karadzic had called on Nov. 14 for an immediate currency union between Serbia proper and Serb-held territories in Bosnia and Croatia, implying that this would be the first step toward the political unification of

Serb lands, and noting "an increasing conviction [in the world community] that the Serbs have the right to self-determination".

Arguments over territory

The territorial argument between the Bosnian government and the Bosnian Serbs was reported to focus on the problem of Sarajevo, with Karadzic offering Izetbegovic territorial concessions in exchange for the partition of the Bosnian capital into "two cities", one under the sovereignty of a Muslim republic and the other under that of a Serb republic.

Izetbegovic, on the other hand, was reported to be concerned with the security of a future Muslim republic, calling on Nov. 28 for Croatia and the Bosnian Croats to guarantee such a republic access to the Adriatic Sea. Furthermore, according to the *Independent* of Nov. 30, while Izetbegovic had agreed at Geneva to drop his demand that the republics of a Union of Three Republics be demilitarized, he insisted that the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) guarantee the borders of the Muslim republic for a period of five years, through the use of military force if necessary.

Threat of aid withdrawal - Resumption of aid provision

Izetbegovic was under particular pressure to compromise at Geneva following suggestions that humanitarian aid might not continue and that UN forces might pull out.

UK Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said on Nov. 19 that "it is unrealistic to suppose that this [humanitarian] effort can be expected to go on for ever and ever when it is not receiving local co-operation and there is no progress towards a political settlement".

Owen warned on Nov. 25 that Bosnian Muslim inflexibility might prompt a withdrawal of UN military forces on the ground, leaving "the parties... to fight it out with no holds barred". Owen implied that the UN aid programme was prolonging the war by "feeding the armies of all sides", and said that the operation was "becoming increasingly difficult to justify".

Izetbegovic, however, insisted on Nov. 29 that he would reject "any unjust offer, regardless of the coming winter and European blackmails concerning hunger".

Aid deliveries had been suspended temporarily on Oct. 26 after the death of a Danish driver [see p. 39696]. An accord to guarantee safe passage for UN convoys was signed in Geneva on Nov. 18 by Boban, Karadzic and Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic.

The accord was described by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Sadako Ogata, as a "joint and solemn commitment". It called for the suspension of hostilities along aid routes during the passing of UN convoys; safety for UN and humanitarian workers; and the UN's right to choose the route it wished to take, and to whom and what it wished to deliver. (The warring parties signed a further pledge in Geneva on Nov. 29, again guaranteeing the free flow of aid.)

On Nov. 24 most needy central and eastern Bosnian towns, with the exception of Gorazde, were supplied with humanitarian aid via Belgrade and an

improved mountain road link from Split on the Adriatic coast. According to the Commander of the UN Protection Force in Former Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR), Gen. Jean Cot, the delivery of humanitarian aid to the estimated 1,500,000 people in central Bosnia had been hampered by troops of all three factions. Cot had warned on Nov. 11 that UNPROFOR was "approaching the point where force [would] have to be used" (reflecting comments by French President François Mitterrand in October—see p. 39696). Silajdzic and Croatian Deputy Prime Minister Mate Granic, who met on Nov. 12, had concurred, and called for international backing "to protect the humanitarian corridors with military force".

Allegations of UNPROFOR misconduct

UNPROFOR on Nov. 2 described as "disinformation" a report in the US weekly *Newsday* of Nov. 2, alleging that UNPROFOR personnel had visited a Serb-run brothel near Sarajevo where, it was claimed, captive Croat and Muslim women had been forced into prostitution. Bosnian Serbs described this report as part of a Western media campaign to "demonize" the Serbs.

Arrest of top Bosnian Army officer - Tension in Sarajevo after crackdown on Croat militia leaders

The Bosnian Army Chief of General Staff and former Bosnian Army Commander, Gen. Sefer Halilovic, was arrested on Nov. 1. The exact nature of charges against him remained unclear, with some reports linking his arrest to the operation against gangsterism launched on Oct. 26 [see p. 39697]. Halilovic was replaced by Gen. Enver Hadzahasanovic.

In what was ostensibly a move aimed at corruption in the military, the Bosnian Army cracked down on Sarajevo-based units of the Croatian Defence Council (HVO—the Bosnian Croat militia) on Nov. 6-9, arresting several of its leading members there, including its commander, Slavko Zelic, according to Croatian Radio on Nov. 8.

Hitherto the Bosnian Army had fought alongside the HVO in Sarajevo, despite being itself in conflict with Croat forces in south-western Bosnia-Herzegovina. HVO militiamen were now ordered to join the Bosnian Army. On Nov. 9 Boban dismissed one HVO leader based in nearby Kiseljak, who had responded to the arrests by announcing on Nov. 6 that his artillery was now aimed at Sarajevo.

The continued detention of five HVO leaders prompted the HVO to block the evacuation of more than 1,000 refugees from Sarajevo on Nov. 26.

Renewal of Sarajevo bombardment

Seven people, including at least four children, were killed when two shells struck an infant school in Sarajevo on Nov. 9, according to officials of the Bosnian Army. Reports said that another 10 people, including three children, were killed in further shelling which continued until Nov. 11. Bosnian Serb sources reportedly blamed both Croats and Muslims, alleging in the latter case that the atrocities

New Bosnian Cabinet

Haris Silajdzic Prime Minister
Edib Bukvic Deputy Prime Minister
Irfan Ljubijankic Foreign Affairs
Sead Kreso Finance
Kasim Trnka Justice
Rusmir Mahmutcehajic Special Purposes
 Production

***Bakir Alispahic** Internal Affairs
Faruk Smajlbegovic Economics
Munever Imamovic Reconstruction and Building
Dragoljub Stoyanov Foreign Trade
Arif Smajkic Social Welfare and Refugees
 ***Mustafa Beganovic** Health
Enes Durakovic Education, Science and Sport
Ivo Knezevic Information
Gradimir Goyer Minister without Portfolio,
Hasan Muratovic Minister without Portfolio
Nedeljko Despotovic Minister without Portfolio
Salko Kulenovic Regional Plenipotentiary, Tuzla district
Fuad Djigic Regional Plenipotentiary, Zenica district
Ibrahim Kolundara Regional Plenipotentiary, Mostar region
Mirsad Velagic Regional Plenipotentiary, Bihac district

*Held same post in previous government.

were contrived to win international sympathy for the Muslim cause.

Muslim-Croat fighting

On Nov. 19 Owen argued that the "primary problem" in Bosnia-Herzegovina was the Croat-Muslim war. "There [were] many Croatian Army forces fighting in Bosnia-Herzegovina," he said, and this had "very much changed the dynamic of the civil war".

On Nov. 16 Tudjman pledged to defend Croatian interests in Bosnia-Herzegovina "by any means" [see also p. 39745].

The *Guardian* of Nov. 20 said that UN military observers had reported the arrival of a substantial military force, including helicopters, from Croatia to reinforce the HVO units attacking Gornji Vakuf. The Croatian force had reportedly begun its assault on Nov. 15. Croat forces also laid siege to Fojnica, where some 570 patients of two psychiatric hospitals were reported on Nov. 14 to have been abandoned by staff fleeing the Croat advance. A UN medical team arrived on Nov. 14 to care for the patients.

Fall of Vares

The town of Vares fell to Bosnian Muslim troops on Nov. 4 after an estimated 15,000 HVO troops withdrew from the town on Nov. 3. Vares was reported to control tactically important supply lines between Bosnian Army units.

Some 12,000 Croat residents of Vares were reported by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to have fled Vares on Nov. 3, fearing Muslim vengeance for the Stupni Do massacre on Oct. 23 [see p. 39697]. Although Bosnian Army Commander Rasim Delic said on Nov. 3 that the army "[guaranteed] all citizens in Vares municipality complete safety", Western media reported that Muslim troops were still looting Vares on Nov. 5.

Destruction of Mostar Old Bridge

Mostar's Old Bridge was destroyed on Nov. 9, allegedly by shells fired by the HVO.

The bridge, constructed in 1566, was one of former Yugoslavia's most celebrated monuments. For some 25,000 Muslims trapped in the eastern half of Mostar, it had provided the only means of access to fresh water. On Nov. 13 Silajdzic described the bridge's destruction as "a barbaric act without precedent", and called for the UN to proclaim Mostar, which had been the scene of heavy fighting between Croats and Muslims, a "safe area" [see p. 39469].

New Bosnian government

A new Bosnian government under Silajdzic took office on Oct. 30. Silajdzic said on Oct. 29 that the new government's priorities were the restoration of peace, the protection of Bosnians from hunger and cold, and the strengthening of the Bosnian Army.

■ Last article p. 39695-97; reference article p. R101-102.

CROATIA

Tudjman peace initiative

Croatian President Franjo Tudjman on Nov. 2 presented to Thorvald Stoltenberg, the co-chair of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, a peace initiative designed to settle the ethnic conflict in both Bosnia and Croatia itself.

Tudjman's peace initiative called for (i) a ceasefire between Croatia and the separatist, self-proclaimed Serbian Republic of Krajina, which occupied one-third of Croatia's territory; (ii) the return of all refugees, mainly Croats, to Krajina; (iii) local political and cultural autonomy, including Serb-language education and a Serb police force, supervised by international institutions; (iv) a court of human rights.

Tudjman emphasized that Serbia should grant its own ethnic minorities equivalent rights, and he reiterated that Croatian sovereignty and territorial integrity were not negotiable. Serbian Radio reported on Nov. 3 that the latter position was "the last nail in the coffin of the peace process".

Krajina officials were critical of Tudjman's initiative, which they claimed had undermined secret peace talks between themselves and Croatia held in the Norwegian capital, Oslo, on Nov. 2-3. Tudjman's office retorted on Nov. 3 that Krajina had used the Tudjman initiative as a pretext for pulling out of the Oslo talks.

Goran Hadzic, leader of the Krajina Serbs, asserted on Nov. 28 that a modus vivendi formula was to be discussed during the talks at Geneva [see p. 39743], with a permanent ceasefire and Krajina's secession from Croatia. Hadzic said that continued Croatian sovereignty over Krajina was "absolutely out of the question" and that Krajina would unite with Serbia during the term of Krajina's next president (who was due to be elected in a poll on Dec. 12).

Tudjman pledge to Bosnian Croats

In an interview on Croatian Radio on Nov. 16, Tudjman said that "Croatia, as the mother country of the Croat nation, [had an] obligation to defend the Croat nation in Bosnia-Herzegovina". He warned that "Croatia would have to defend both its historical and its strategic interests despite the consequences" if Croats were threatened with attack.

Tudjman's warning came after the fall of the town of Vares in central Bosnia-Herzegovina had forced some 12,000 Croat refugees to flee to Serb-held areas [see p. 39744].

Acquittal of fascist leader

Dobrosavlj Paraga, former president of the extreme right-wing Croatian Party of Rights (HSP), was acquitted on Nov. 4 of "inciting a violent change of the constitutional system" and of terrorism [for June resumption of trial see p. 39518].

■ Last article p. 39697-98; reference article p. R103-04.

YUGOSLAVIA

Crackdown on ultra-nationalist group

The ultra-nationalist Serbian Radical Party (SRS) suffered a series of setbacks in November. Correspondents speculated that Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic was responsible for a campaign to undermine the SRS in advance of December's planned elections to the Serbian People's Assembly.

On the night of Nov. 4-5 several leading members of the SRS associated with its military wing, the Chetniks, were arrested. The daily *Borba* of Nov. 11-12 reported that approximately 40 people had been charged with offenses ranging from murder and rape to kidnap and illegal possession of arms. The newspaper also published, for the first time in Serbia since the outbreak of war in June 1991, several detailed reports of atrocities committed in Croatia and Bosnia by Serb military irregulars [for inaugural session of war crimes tribunal held on Nov. 17 at The Hague, see p. 39763].

There were also signs that Milosevic would back a new ultranationalist group, the Serbian Unity Party (SSJ), in the planned December elections, as a direct rival to the SRS [see below].

The leader of the SRS and commander of the paramilitary Chetniks, Vojislav Seselj, claimed on Nov. 11 that Milosevic was deliberately provoking his organization into rebellion, in order then to crush it. Seselj alleged that Serbian police had made an attempt on his life in September, when his car was struck by a second vehicle in Belgrade. He further alleged that Milosevic had conspired with a federal government composed of "criminals, profiteers and a financial mafia" to embezzle large sums of state money.

Arkan's new political party

The SSJ's inaugural conference on Nov. 3 in Belgrade, an event which was reported favourably by the state-owned press, elected as party chair Zeljko Raznjatovic, a commander of the paramilitary Tigers group (was also known as "Arkan"). He had been linked in widespread Western media reports to atrocities committed in Croatia and Bosnia.

Raznjatovic said on Nov. 2 that the SSJ would favour "American-style democracy". It appeared likely that he would secure a seat in the Serbian province of Kosovo, 90 per cent of whose population was ethnic Albanian, but where ethnic Albanian parties were expected to boycott the poll. Ibrahim Rugova, leader of the Democratic Alliance of Kosovo (DSK) and president of the self-declared Republic of Kosovo, was reported in *Borba* of Oct. 29 as having announced such a boycott. Raznjatovic threatened that if he secured a seat in Kosovo, Albanian nationalists would be expelled, according to *Borba* of Nov. 3.

Re-establishment of Montenegrin Orthodox Church

On Oct. 31 a rally of several thousand Montenegrin nationalists at Cetinje, the republic's historic capital, proclaimed the re-establishment of the Montenegrin Orthodox Church, and elected Antonija Abramovic as its leader. The Serbian Orthodox Church described its new rival as "illegal" and secessionist.

Montenegrin President Momir Bulatovic admitted on Nov. 18 that there could be residual antipathy between Montenegrins and Serbs, which, he suggested, dated back to the Second World War, but he insisted that "this problem has been blown out of proportion politically". Milosevic said on Nov. 3 that there were "no significant differences" between Serbs and Montenegrins.

■ Last article p. 39697; reference article p. R128-30.

MACEDONIA

Alleged plot by ethnic Albanians

The Macedonian authorities made a number of arrests of ethnic Albanians in early November.

Those arrested included the Assistant Defence Minister and also, reportedly, the Deputy Health Minister Imer Imeri. Imeri was not, however, on the official list of detainees, and on Nov. 12 Croatian

Radio reported unofficial sources as saying that he was seeking political asylum in the German consulate in Skopje, the Macedonian capital.

Justifying the arrests and related arms seizures, the authorities claimed that a planned rebellion backed by more than 21,000 paramilitary forces was aiming to create a Republic of Ilirida as the first step towards a "greater Albania". Albania, however, maintained instead that the unrest was part of a Yugoslav plot to destabilize Macedonia prior to annexing it. The official Yugoslav media meanwhile alleged that the greatest threat came from Albanian nationalists within Macedonia who, it said, were receiving Albanian, Turkish and Saudi Arabian support.

On Nov. 16 the government survived a no confidence motion brought by the nationalist Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization-Democratic Party for Macedonian National Unity (VMRO-DPMNE) over the government's handling of the affair.

■ Last article p. 39698; reference article p. R116.

ALBANIA

Reports of corruption - Government changes

On Nov. 4 it was announced that Arben Kiloci, a former general director of the State Bank, had been arrested and accused of large-scale appropriation of state property.

Despite press restrictions introduced in October [see p. 39708], persistent reports emerged of alleged financial corruption involving government ministers and officials [see p. 39606 for arrest of former Prime Minister and other former ministers].

On Nov. 8 President Sali Berisha decreed the dissolution of the Ministry of Finance and Economy (held by Genc Ruli) and the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations (held by Artan Hoxha), replacing them respectively with ministries of Finance and of Industry and Trade.

Ruli resigned the following day, complaining in a statement that colleagues had failed to support him. Berisha announced on Nov. 10 that Ruli and Hoxha had been dismissed, and Albanian Radio reported Albanian Radio reported the appointments of Piro Dishnica as Minister of Finance and Selim Belortaja as Minister of Industry and Trade.

Visit of Greek Foreign Affairs Minister

Karolos Papoulias, Greece's new Foreign Affairs Minister [see p. 39706], held talks with Berisha, Prime Minister Aleksander Meksi and officials on Nov. 15 and 16. The talks covered the rights of the Greek minority in Albania, proposals for a joint commission on Albanian residents in Greece, co-operation in infrastructural and financial projects, problems of refugees, and proposed new border crossings.

■ Last articles p. 39606; 39708; reference article p. R98.

CZECH REPUBLIC

Controversy over defamation law

President Vaclav Havel signed into law an amended criminal code on Nov. 23 despite his criticism of provisions which made defamation of the republic, the government and parliament a criminal offence. He said that he had asked the government to reconsider articles 102 and 103 of the code, and suggested that the Constitutional Court should remove them.

Most opposition parties had called for the removal or amendment of these articles, which, they claimed, could be used to restrict opposition activities.

New committee on foreign policy

Following an agreement among the coalition parties an 11-member consultative committee to co-ordinate foreign policy was set up on Nov. 3. The new body comprised Havel, the Prime Minister, the Defence and Foreign Ministers, the two Deputy Foreign Ministers, the chairman of the Chamber of Deputies, the chairman of its foreign affairs committee and the leaders of the coalition parties.

Death of former Foreign Minister

Jiri Hajek, Czechoslovak Foreign Minister during the "Prague Spring" in 1968, died on Oct. 22 at the age of 80 and was buried on Nov. 1. Hajek had been a close associate of Communist Party leader Alexander Dubcek during the short-lived reform experiment of 1968, and had been a founding member of the dissident movement Charter 77.

■ Last articles pp. 39606-07; 39657; reference article pp. R104-05.

SLOVAKIA

Cabinet changes

Following the coalition agreement in October between the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia (HZDS) and the Slovak National Party (SNS) [see pp. 39699-700], the two parties finally agreed on the division of Cabinet posts in early November.

On Nov. 17 President Michal Kovac swore in four additional Deputy Prime Ministers: Marian Andel (SNS), who was given overall responsibility for education, science, youth and sports; Sergej Kozlik (HZDS), with overall responsibility for economic transformation; Jozef Prokes (SNS), with overall responsibility for integration into European structures; and Julius Toth (HZDS), who already held the post of Finance Minister and was given overall responsibility for economic affairs. The other key appointment was Jan Ducky as Minister of the Economy, the country's third since it became independent in January. Politically unaffiliated, he had briefly served as Industry Minister in 1989-90 and succeeded Jaroslav Kubecka. Jaroslav Paska (SNS) was appointed Minister of Education and Science.

The key post of privatization minister was left empty after President Kovac rejected the nomination of Ivan Lexa, as put forward by Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar. Meciar then accused Kovac of breaking "personal promises", but nevertheless withdrew the nomination of Lexa, electing to retain the privatization portfolio himself on a temporary basis.

New Health Minister

Parliament passed a vote of no confidence on Nov. 17 against the Health Minister, Viliam Sobona, who had been repeatedly accused of incompetence by the opposition parties and by some members of the SNS. Sobona was replaced on Nov. 24 by Irena Belohorska, hitherto a state secretary in the Foreign Ministry.

Death of leading HZDS member

Roman Zelenay, deputy leader of the HZDS and a close associate of Meciar, died in a car accident in the Czech Republic on Nov. 1.

■ Last article pp. 39699-700; Czechoslovakia reference article p. R104-05.

HUNGARY

Renewal of media dispute

On Nov. 22 a prominent member of the ruling Hungarian Democratic Forum (MDF), Karoly Alexa, was appointed director-general of the MTI, the state-owned news agency. The decision, the latest round in the long-running dispute between the government and the media, was strongly criticized by opposition parties [for earlier developments, see pp. 38971-72; 39242; 39281-82].

On Oct. 25 a daily press review on Hungarian Radio had been cancelled on the grounds that it was biased in its selection, and for referring to an article by Elemer Hankiss, a former president of Hungarian Television, critical of the government's media policy. On Oct. 26 the chief editor and three editors of a leading television news programme were suspended for manipulating footage. On Nov. 1 some 10,000 people joined a rally by journalists in Budapest to protest against what they claimed was the growing control exercised by the MDF over the state-owned media, and to demand the adoption of a law guaranteeing media freedom.

Party developments

The far-right Hungarian Justice and Life Party (MIEP) was officially constituted on Nov. 6 and Istvan Csurka and Lajos Horvath were elected joint chairmen.

This completed a process started in June, when Csurka, Horvath and three other deputies of the MDF formed a separate parliamentary group [see pp. 39521; 39647].

The opposition Federation of Young Democrats (FIDESz), which had consistently won the highest rating in public opinion polls in recent years, suffered a serious setback with the resignations of three leading members in early November.

The resignations followed a power struggle over co-operation with other political groups, as the

FIDESz deputy chair Gabor Fodor in particular accused party leader Viktor Orban of wanting to shift the party from the liberal centre towards the right. Fodor, who had unsuccessfully sought the presidency of the FIDESz national committee, left the party on Nov. 3, followed on Nov. 5 by party chair Peter Molnar and Budapest branch chair Klara Ungar.

As of the end of November, the representation of parties in the National Assembly was as follows: Hungarian Democratic Forum (MDF) 136, Alliance of Free Democrats (SzDSz) 85, Independent Smallholders' Party-Historical Section (FKgP-TT) 36, Hungarian Socialist Party (MSP) 33, Federation of Young Democrats (FIDESz) 26, Christian Democratic People's Party (KDNP) 23, Hungarian Justice and Life Party (MIEP) 11, Independent Smallholders' Party (FKgP) seven, independents 27, vacant two.

Antall illness

Prime Minister Jozsef Antall returned to work on Nov. 5 after a four-week course of treatment for his long-standing lymph gland cancer [see p. 39698], but after a deterioration in his condition he was again admitted to hospital on Nov. 26. As before, Interior Minister Peter Boross (a former non-party technocrat who had joined the MDF earlier in 1993) took over as acting Prime Minister.

■ Last article p. 39698; reference article pp. R111-12.

ROMANIA

Pro-reform demonstrations

Trade unions organized major demonstrations in Bucharest and other cities on Nov. 18 and 29 in protest against falling living standards and soaring food and fuel prices, and in favour of more rapid economic reforms. The Nov. 18 march, attracting around 50,000 trade unionists, was the largest demonstration since the overthrow of the Ceausescu regime in 1989.

The unions issued an 11-point programme on Nov. 17 calling on the government to introduce full-scale privatization, to restructure the state sector, to invest in infrastructure projects, to fight corruption, to improve the social security system, and to adopt a minimum wage at three-fifths of the average wage.

Refusal of entry to former king

The celebrations to mark the 75th anniversary of the unification of Romania and Transylvania on Dec. 1, Romania's National Day, became the subject of political controversy after the exiled ex-King Michael (Mihai) announced on Nov. 9 that he wished to participate in the event.

The former king, who had been forced to abdicate by the communist regime in 1947, lived in Switzerland. He had visited Romania for the Easter celebrations in April 1992 [see p. 38882] but his requests for an entry visa had been refused on several other occasions.

On Nov. 24 the Foreign Minister, Teodor Melescanu, said that the former king would be

granted a visa if all the political parties welcomed the visit. All the major opposition parties had previously done so, but the ruling Social Democracy Party of Romania (SDPR—the former Democratic National Salvation Front—see p. 39566) had made clear its disapproval. As a result of the controversy the opposition parties boycotted the official celebrations in Alba Iulia.

Restoration of most-favoured-nation trading status by USA

On Nov. 2 the USA restored to Romania most-favoured-nation (MFN) status—entitling it to preferential treatment in trade matters—which it had enjoyed until 1988, when it was suspended over the Ceausescu regime's human rights record [see p. 35848]. [For Romania's Council of Europe membership see p. 39707.]

■ Last article p. 39699; reference article p. R120-21.

COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES

Collapse of rouble zone

Several members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) introduced new currencies in November, despite recent agreements to retain the rouble zone [see p. 39648].

Russia demanded during negotiations that countries in the rouble zone should subordinate their monetary policy to that of the Russian Central Bank, and deposit gold and hard currency reserves with it. Bakhtiar Hamidov, an Uzbekistan Deputy Prime Minister, on Nov. 2 described such conditions as "enslaving".

Two of the states involved, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, announced plans for economic union on Nov. 2, and synchronized the introduction of their new currencies on Nov. 15.

Uzbekistan's new currency, the som coupon, was to serve on a temporary basis alongside the rouble, with pre-1993 roubles (no longer legal tender in Russia since the currency reform of July 24) phased out of from December.

Kazakhstan's new currency, the tenge, became the country's sole legal tender on Nov. 25, 10 days after its introduction.

Turkmenistan introduced the manat on Nov. 1, along with a package of reforms, including price deregulation for non-essential goods and services.

Moldova introduced the leu (plural: lei) on Nov. 29, with the rouble phased out by Dec. 4.

Armenia introduced the dram, on Nov. 22. Officials said that the rouble would be phased out by Jan. 1, 1994.

There was reportedly widespread public anxiety in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan over the new currencies. The *Guardian* of Nov. 16 reported that prices of staple foods in both countries had risen fourfold as consumers sought to spend their old banknotes.

Implications for relations with Russia

According to Kaztag news agency on Nov. 22, the President of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbaev, insisted that the enforced currency reform "[did] not mean disrupted relations with Russia". However the reforms raised fears of further economic decline and of a "brain drain" as ethnic Russians migrated back to Russia.

Russian Minister of Finance Boris Fedorov welcomed the currency reforms, stating his opposition on Nov. 12 to forms of union which "would import inflation into our country", although he raised the prospect of a "CIS Ecu" or universal means of payment based on several separate national currencies. The *Financial Times* of Nov. 12 reported that the reforms could save Russia more than \$15,000 million a year by denying former rouble zone countries cheap credits and subsidized energy.

Michel Camdessus, Managing Director of the IMF, welcomed the currency reforms on Nov. 15, saying that former rouble zone countries could now take control of their finances, but he also urged those countries to adopt "adequately restrained monetary and fiscal policies, as well as liberalization of the trade and payments system".

Position of Byelarus

It was reported on Nov. 18 that the parliament of Byelarus had ratified the Sept. 7 agreement on maintaining the rouble zone in Byelarus, while making Byelarus monetary and financial legislation compatible with Russian law. However, Itar-Tass news agency reported on Nov. 24 that the Byelarus parliament had decided that the Byelarus rouble would be the only legal currency. [See p. 39749 for debate within Byelarus on economic issues.]

■ Last article p. 39648; reference article p. R130.

RUSSIA

Publication of draft constitution

Russia's long-awaited draft constitution was published on Nov. 9, and was to be submitted for approval in a national referendum coinciding with the parliamentary elections on Dec. 12.

Presidential powers. The draft constitution envisaged significantly increased powers for the President, who would be head of state and head of the armed forces. The President would be responsible for government political and economic policy, announced in an annual address; would choose and appoint the prime minister, and could override objections by the Federal Assembly (the new legislature); and would appoint and head the Security Council. The President could issue decrees and veto parliamentary legislation.

The President would also propose the chair of the Central Bank, the prosecutor general, and key members of the judiciary. While such appointments would be subject to the approval of the Chair of one

of the Federal Assembly's two chambers (the Federation Council and the State Duma), the legislature would have no subsequent supervisory role.

Role of parliament. The powers of the Federal Assembly vis à vis executive institutions would be significantly diminished. The Federal Assembly would not be permitted even to consider, still less to challenge, presidential decrees. Impeachment of the President would require the approval of both chambers of the Federal Assembly and the agreement of both the Supreme Court and the Constitutional Court.

The Federal Assembly would furthermore be unable to dismiss the government without the consent of the President. If the Federal Assembly were to pass a vote of no confidence in the government, the President would be able, within three months, to dissolve the Federal Assembly and to call new elections.

The draft constitution would also permit government members to sit in the Federal Assembly, increasing their influence there.

Another part of the draft constitution would limit the Assembly's first term to two years (which would thus expire before President Boris Yeltsin would face new elections—see below for his decision to reverse his plan for early presidential elections).

Curtailed powers of regions. The draft constitution allowed equal rights to all 89 of Russia's regions and republics; all would be subject to the federal authorities. Provisions included in earlier drafts, including republican sovereignty and the right of secession from the Federation, were deleted from the final draft, a move which had been approved by a meeting of regional and republican leaders held on Nov. 3-4.

(A decree of Nov. 9, which abolished the self-proclaimed Ural Republic, was further evidence of Yeltsin's determination to centralize power in Russia.)

Other provisions. A further section of the draft constitution would ensure freedom of thought (there was to be no state religion or ideology), of movement and of assembly. An ombudsman for human rights would be created, although the legal status of such an official was not specified. Other sections of the draft constitution were designed to protect welfare provision, guaranteeing citizens access to social security, pensions, free health care and "affordable" housing. There was also a commitment to "the right to work and to protection against unemployment".

Reactions to draft constitution

In a television address on Nov. 9 Yeltsin described the draft constitution, in a reference to the long-running constitutional stalemate with the Russian Parliament which culminated in the Moscow rebellion of Oct. 3-4 [see pp. 39692-93], as a "barrier against confrontation". He insisted that Russia needed "firm, legal order".

There was fierce criticism of the draft constitution from opposition groups, including the nationalist Sergei Baburin's radical right-wing Russian National People's Union, which described the draft on Nov. 11 as the "constitution of an almost unrestricted monarchy",

and the Communist Party, whose leader Genadi Zyuganov described the draft as "dictatorial" [for controversy provoked by criticism of draft constitution during election broadcasts, see below].

Yeltsin's criticism of government

In an address to government members on Nov. 2, Yeltsin sharply criticized the government, accusing it of neglecting the needs of the poor, and pressing it to accelerate reform. He asserted that many of those involved in the Moscow violence in October had been "desperate people" and not just "bandits and criminals". He accused some ministers of seeking to pass decrees which went "against the concept of reform or even [leaned] toward authoritarianism".

On Nov. 1 Finance Minister Boris Fedorov had also been critical of government economic policy, alleging that there had been "attempts to postpone major decisions", and claiming that ministers had been distracted by the coming legislative elections.

Cancellation of early presidential poll

On Nov. 6 Yeltsin appeared to abandon plans to hold early presidential elections in June 1994, some two years before his term of office was due to expire. A clause in the draft constitution underscored Yeltsin's legal entitlement to serve his full term.

US President Bill Clinton said on Nov. 7 that the USA should continue to support Yeltsin, despite this decision. Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany, who met Yeltsin in Moscow on Nov. 22, maintained: "I trust Boris Yeltsin and am confident that he and his colleagues will build a robust and strong democracy."

Yeltsin's decision was supported by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and First Deputy Prime Minister and Economics Minister Yegor Gaidar on Nov. 7. However the *Guardian* of Nov. 12 reported that Deputy Prime Ministers Sergei Shakhrai and Aleksandr Shokhin were among several government ministers uneasy about the decision. The daily *Izvestiya* of Nov. 11 warned that the move could boost support for communists and nationalists in the forthcoming legislative elections.

In a compromise move Yeltsin said, according to *Izvestiya* of Nov. 15, that he would consult the Federal Assembly on the date of future presidential elections, and that he had not yet cancelled his decree of Sept. 23 (which had originally set the June 1994 date).

Registration of parties for general election

Election officials said on Nov. 10 that 13 political parties and blocs had been permitted to register for the elections to the Federal Assembly on Dec. 12. A further eight parties and blocs had been refused permission, including the Russian National People's Union, whose leader Baburin alleged that lists containing some of the 100,000 signatures necessary to qualify the party for registration had been stolen by police.

Among the parties and blocs to register successfully were four newly created groups.

Russia's Choice was a bloc of radical reformers, including many senior government members, led by Gaidar and composed of several political parties, including Democratic Russia, the Peasants' Party of Russia, the Association of Privatised and Private Entrepreneurs, and the Party of Democratic Initiative. Russia's Choice was founded on Nov. 17 with the slogan "freedom, property, legality". The bloc claimed to have organizations in over 50 Russian regions.

The Yavlinsky-Boldyrev-Lukin bloc (*Yabloko* or the Bloc of Three) was led by pro-reform economist Grigory Yavlinsky, scientist Yuri Boldyrev, and Vladimir Lukin, Russian ambassador to the USA. The bloc, formed in mid-October, advocated market reforms but cautioned against the "shock therapy" economic strategy and expressed doubt over Yeltsin's aptitude for democracy.

The Party of Russian Unity and Accord adopted the slogan "stability, family, property and Motherland". Led by Shakhrai and Shokhin, it sought to appeal to the regional lobby, the industrial lobby, and the poor.

The Civic Union for Stabilization, Justice and Progress was a centrist bloc featuring the influential Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs. Launched on Oct. 26, this new bloc, led by Arkady Volsky, replaced the Civic Union, of which former Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoi had been a leading member.

Other principal parties were the centrist Democratic Party of Russia, led by Nikolai Travkin; three "conservative" parties associated with those harking back to the former communist system, namely the Russian Communist Party itself, the Agrarian Party of Russia, linked to the collective farm lobby, and Women of Russia; and the ultra-nationalist right-wing Liberal Democratic Party led by Vladimir Zhirinovskiy.

Four other parties which registered successfully were the moderate Movement for Democratic Reforms led by Anatoly Sobchak, Mayor of St Petersburg; the environmentalist *Kedr* group; the Future of Russia-New Names group, geared towards younger voters; and the Dignity and Mercy bloc representing the interests of invalids and military veterans.

On Nov. 26 the Itar-Tass news agency cited an election official who said that only some 60 out more than 1,000 former deputies of the Congress of People's Deputies were standing as candidates for the Federal Assembly.

Controversy after election broadcasts

The way in which opposition groups used their free election broadcasts to criticize the draft constitution prompted Vladimir Shumeiko, First Deputy Prime Minister and acting Press and Information Minister, to call on Nov. 29 for the disqualification of the Communist Party and the Democratic Party from the elections.

Free half-hour election broadcasts had begun on Nov. 22, and were awarded to all 13 parties and blocs. Several parties, including also the Civic Union bloc, featured in their broadcasts television

pictures of the Oct. 4 assault on the White House (the seat of Parliament). Correspondents reported that these broadcasts had been relatively mild by Western standards.

Shumeiko's comments, which followed Yeltsin's threat on Nov. 26 that parties critical of the draft constitution could be barred from making election broadcasts, were rejected by election officials and were sharply criticized by Russia's Choice on Dec. 1.

Restrictions on activity of foreign banks

A decree issued by Yeltsin on Nov. 18, which was designed to protect the domestic banking industry from strong foreign competition, and which reinforced a Supreme Soviet decree of July 21 [see p. 39568], prohibited foreign banks based in Russia from serving Russian clients until 1996.

The decree raised doubt over a partnership agreement between Russia and the European Union (EU, previously the EC), due to be signed by Yeltsin in Brussels on Dec. 9. The *Financial Times* of Nov. 27 quoted "a European Commission trade official" as saying that the move made negotiations on the partnership deal "a lot more difficult". EU negotiators had agreed what the *Financial Times* of Nov. 10 had described as a package of "wide-ranging trade concessions" to improve Russian access to the European market.

Submission of final budget for 1993

On Nov. 10 Fedorov submitted the finalized budget for 1993, projecting a deficit of some 17,000,000 million roubles or some 10 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP). At a government meeting on Nov. 11, however, Fedorov said that the deficit could yet rise to some 14 per cent of GDP.

New military doctrine

A new military doctrine, introduced by Yeltsin in a decree of Nov. 2, was tentatively welcomed on Nov. 4 by US Secretary of State Warren Christopher on the basis that it respected the sovereignty and territorial integrity of former Soviet states.

The greater part of the doctrine, which was intended to provide a political statement of the Russian military's guiding principles, was published unofficially in the newspaper *Kommersant Daily* of Nov. 17 and included a list of "military threats to Russia". Significantly, such threats were deemed to include the suppression of the rights and legitimate interests of ethnic Russians living abroad. Also included were "the widening of military blocs and alliances damaging the security interests of the Russian Federation", a phrase seen as possibly referring to the potential expansion of NATO membership; attempts to interfere with support systems for nuclear weapons, a possible reference to weapons stationed in Ukraine; and the stationing in neighbouring countries of troops from a third country. There was no reference to the future size of the army.

■ Last article pp. 39692-64; reference article p. R121-22.

ARMENIA

Government victory on privatisation

Some pro-government deputies joined with opposition parties on Nov. 1 in attacking government economic policy during a heated debate in the Supreme Council (legislature) on proposed government amendments to legislation introducing privatisation. The Cabinet was reported to be on the verge of resignation, having obtained only 116 of the 121 votes required.

Following a walk-out by pro-government deputies which brought parliamentary business to a halt, the Chair announced that he had obtained the required 100 signatures in support of a call for an extraordinary session the same day. In this extraordinary session the government's proposals were endorsed by 152 votes to 14, after the opposition Communists decided to change sides and vote in favour. The legislation provided that, prior to privatization sales, 20 per cent of the ownership of enterprises would be transferred to workers' collectives.

■ Last article p. 39694; reference article p. R99.

AZERBAIJAN

Oil agreement with Western companies

The *Guardian* of Nov. 2 reported the signing of an agreement, after more than a year of negotiation, between the Azerbaijan government and a consortium of Western companies led by the UK-based BP. An earlier draft of the agreement had been cancelled in June [see p. 39522].

The agreement envisaged the investment by the consortium of some US\$7,500 million in two oilfields in the Caspian Sea, with an initial \$250 million to be paid to Azerbaijan on ratification of the deal by the *Milli Majlis* (the rump Supreme Soviet). The consortium would be entitled to 20 per cent of profits from the oilfields, thought to contain the equivalent of some 3,000 million barrels of oil.

The agreement came after the visit to Azerbaijan on Oct. 13 of Douglas Hogg, a Minister of State at the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office. According to Azerbaijani Radio, Hogg had stressed that the UK regarded the disputed enclave of Nagorny Karabakh as an integral part of Azerbaijan, and condemned the use of force to change its status.

Appointments - Reconstitution of communist party

On Nov. 5 the Russian Itar-Tass news agency reported that the *Milli Majlis* had elected President Geidar Aliyev's nominee, Rasul Kuliyev, as its new Chair. Azerbaijani Radio reported on Nov. 9 that Ali Binnet ogy Insanov had been appointed as Minister of Health.

A congress of the Azerbaijani Communist Party, held on Nov. 2, reconstituted the party, which had been abolished in August 1991, and elected Sayad Sayadov as its new leader.

Nagorny Karabakh

Reported peace timetable - Death of refugees

On Nov. 29 the Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry described as "propaganda" Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosian's Nov. 25 claim that leaders of the separatist Nagorny Karabakh enclave in Azerbaijan had agreed to accept a peace timetable put forward by the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE).

On Nov. 10 the CSCE had strongly criticized the resumption of hostilities in south-western Azerbaijan, after an Armenian offensive in early November drove some 50,000 Azeri refugees across the river Araxes into Iran. At least 100 people, including many children, were reportedly drowned attempting the crossing.

■ Last article p. 39694; reference article p. R100.

BYELARUS

Disagreements over economy

Motions calling for the resignation of the head of state, Stanislau Shushkevich, and the Prime Minister, Vyacheslau Kebich, were reportedly defeated on Nov. 19 after a two-week parliamentary debate on the economy. A proposal to set limits of 6 per cent of gross national product (GNP) for the budget deficit and 10 per cent for the monthly inflation rate was also defeated.

Shushkevich reportedly opposed the ratification of the Sept. 7 agreement with Russia on the rouble zone (approved by parliament on Nov. 18—see p. 39747 for this and subsequent parliamentary vote on making Byelarus rouble the sole currency). He argued that the agreement would make Byelarus's fight against inflation more difficult, whereas Kebich, a strong supporter of closer economic integration with Russia, pressed strongly for ratification.

Official statistics cited at the time were said to show that production was running at 85 per cent of the 1992 level, while monthly inflation had reached 30 per cent. A report on Nov. 23 said that the country had only one week of fuel supplies.

A World Bank loan of US\$125 million, the bulk to be used to import goods needed during the transition to a market economy, had been announced by Kebich on Nov. 17.

■ Last article pp. 39568-69; reference article p. R103.

GEORGIA

Crackdown on Zviadists

In a decree of Nov. 2, Georgian Supreme Soviet Chair (President) Eduard Shevardnadze introduced the punishment of summary execution for rebels loyal to the deposed for-

mer President Zviad Gamsakhurdia. Shevardnadze referred to Gamsakhurdia on Nov. 22 as "the Antichrist".

According to Georgian Radio the Nov. 2 decree stated that "all measures permitted by the law, including liquidation, [should] be exercised on the spot" against those guilty of "marauding and violence, who [refused] to submit to the demands of the law-enforcement bodies". On Nov. 10 Shevardnadze said that sporadic violence perpetrated by Zviadists (forces loyal to Gamsakhurdia) "must be stopped" and that law-enforcement bodies should act ruthlessly, "regardless of the law".

On Nov. 20 Shevardnadze decreed the extension of the state of emergency, announced on Sept. 20 [see p. 39651], until Jan. 20.

Flight of Gamsakhurdia - Arrival of Russian marines

Georgian Radio claimed on Nov. 3 that Gamsakhurdia had retreated from Georgia proper with part of his remaining military force to the town of Gali in the separatist region of Abkhazia.

Zviadists were reported to have conceded their last remaining stronghold in western Georgia, the town of Zugdidi, on Nov. 6.

A peacekeeping force of some 500 Russian marines, which had reportedly arrived at the Georgian port of Poti on Nov. 4, was deployed on Nov. 7 in Zugdidi, and on Nov. 8 to protect key roads and railway lines in western Georgia. Adml. Eduard Baltin, commander of the Black Sea Fleet to which the marines were attached, said on Nov. 16 that although some forces were withdrawing, others would remain in Georgia.

Proposed Abkhaz referendum on unification with Russia

According to the Russian weekly *Moskovskiy Novosti* of Nov. 18, Vladislav Ardzinba, leader of the separatist Georgian region of Abkhazia, said that a referendum would be held to decide on unification with Russia. Ardzinba referred to "unbreakable ties" between Abkhazia and Russia.

Georgian Radio reported that a "large-scale offensive" launched by Abkhaz forces in the region of the Lata Gorge had been resisted by the local Georgian population. According to the *Independent* of Nov. 30, the Georgian Foreign Ministry had accused the Abkhazians of "a new wave of genocide and ethnic cleansing".

Murder of separatist leader

Radio Moscow reported on Nov. 14 that the Defence Minister of the separatist Georgian province of South Ossetia, Parpat Dzhoiye, had been assassinated on Nov. 13. Also on Nov. 13, South Ossetia's parliament building was reportedly damaged in an arson attack.

Foundation of pro-Shevardnadze party

The Citizens' Union of Georgia held its inaugural congress on Nov. 21. Shevardnadze, who was elected as the party's leader, said that the Citizens' Union would promote "democratic values" and would seek a mass mem-

bership. It also advocated restoration of Georgia's "territorial integrity" (i.e. including Abkhazia).

■ Last article p. 39695; reference article p. R108-09.

UKRAINE

Economic crisis

In the first week of November President Leonid Kravchuk, who had assumed control of the Council of Ministers after the September resignation of the Prime Minister [see p. 39651], signed decrees reversing economic reforms introduced over the previous year.

Inflation was running at 100 per cent a month. The currency, the karbovanets, had lost more than 80 per cent of its value over the preceding three months. The country, which depended upon Russia for 90 per cent of its oil and gas supplies, was unable to cover the cost of energy imports with revenue from sales, since the domestic electricity market was subsidized to the extent of about 90 per cent.

Among the measures taken by Kravchuk were (i) closing the Kiev currency auction which determined the market rate of the karbovanets; (ii) shutting money exchange bureaux; (iii) allowing currency exchange transactions, for government-authorized imports and exports only, at a rate fixed by the central bank; (iv) imposing wholesale and retail price controls; and (v) reconstituting the state order system which obliged enterprises (98 per cent of which remained state-owned) to sell a portion of their production to the state at fixed prices.

New electoral law

On Nov. 18 the Supreme Council (legislature) approved a new electoral law for the general election scheduled for March 1994 [see p. 39652]. This provided for the election of deputies in single-member constituencies under a first-past-the-post system.

The legislation was criticized by the opposition People's Movement of Ukraine (*Rukh*) as preserving the essence of the old law of the communist epoch. Work collectives would be able to nominate candidates for elections, a feature which the Christian Democratic Party of Ukraine said would deprive people of the possibility of expressing their will freely.

Publication of draft constitution

A new draft constitution, describing Ukraine as a "democratic, law-governed social state in which all power belongs to the people", was published on Oct. 30.

Citizens were declared to have equal rights and liberties irrespective of their social position, nationality or religion. The draft constitution formally guaranteed the right to freedom of conscience and of religion. It specified the highest legislative body as a 450-seat Supreme Council elected every four years, with executive power vested in the Council of Ministers, guided in its activities by a President directly elected for a five-year term and responsible for security and foreign policy. Crimea was to be an autonomous entity.

Denial of Russian press report of military personnel cuts

On Nov. 4 *Izvestiya*, the Russian daily newspaper, reported that the Ukrainian Defence Minister, Lt.-Gen. Vitaly Radetsky, had signed an order providing for the reduction of the Ukrainian army by 150,000 personnel to 380,000 by Jan. 1, 1994, and to 250,000 by the end of 1995. The Ukrainian Defence Ministry, however, dismissed the report the following day as "provocative misinformation".

Murder of Crimean Tatar leader

On Nov. 6 the leader of the Crimean Tatars' National Movement, Yuriy Osmanov, was murdered in Simferopol. It was reported on Nov. 23 that a suspect had been arrested and that political motives were not suspected.

Mass arrest of cult members

In early November some 500 members of an apocalyptic sect called the White Brotherhood were arrested in Kiev; on Nov. 12 further arrests were made as members stormed St Sophia's cathedral in Kiev, two days before what the sect predicted would be the end of the world. The sect's leaders Marina Tsvygum, who called herself Maria Devi Christos, and Yuri Krivinogov, a hypnotist who had worked on psychological warfare in the former Soviet Union, at first went into hiding but Tsvygum was arrested on Nov. 10 and charged with hooliganism.

[For Supreme Council's ratification of START I treaty see p. 39762.]

■ Last article p. 39695; reference article p. R126-27.

ESTONIA

Law on cultural autonomy

On Oct. 26 the *Riigikogu* (legislature) adopted a law on cultural autonomy for ethnic minorities.

The law entitled minorities of at least 3,000 citizens to establish cultural, religious and educational institutions, for which the provision of state funding was made possible. The law's sponsor in the *Riigikogu*, deputy Ants-Enno Lohmus, said on Oct. 26 that the law was aimed at those minorities which wished "to preserve their education, language and faith".

IMF credits

The IMF on Oct. 27 approved credits totalling SDR 23,250,000 (about US\$32,000,000), of which SDR 11,600,000 (\$16,000,000) was available until March 1995 under a standby credit to support the government's economic and financial reform programme. An additional SDR 11,600,000 was available under the systematic transformation facility (STF). [This information was erroneously given on p. 39700 as applying to Latvia.]

■ Last article p. 39700; reference article p. R106.

EUROPEAN UNION

Entry into force of Maastricht Treaty

On Nov. 1 the Maastricht Treaty on European Union formally entered into effect following the completion of the ratification process in October [see pp. 39700-02].

The new designation of "European Union" (EU) not only embraced the European Communities (EC), which continued to conduct business under the Treaty of Rome, and which now had increased powers in some matters under the Maastricht treaty, but also involved the two intergovernmental "pillars" covering common foreign and security policy (CFSP) and co-operation on justice and home affairs issues.

On Nov. 8 the EC's Council of Ministers decided to call itself in future the Council of the European Union. This meant that the 12 ministers, who conducted both EC and EU business depending on the subject matter involved, could sit as the same body under the EU umbrella. On Nov. 17 the Commission of the European Communities decided to call itself the European Commission (as it was often popularly referred to in any case).

The changes caused some confusion, especially because it was stressed that the EU as such had no "legal personality". Thus, for example, the conclusion of treaties with third parties would be done formally in the name of the EC rather than the EU.

Work continued on the establishment of a 189-member Committee of the Regions as provided in the Maastricht Treaty, which was due to meet for the first time in January 1994, although only about half the required delegates had as yet been named.

On Nov. 29 the EU interior and justice ministers met for the first time as part of the third "pillar" of the European Union (co-ordinating justice and home affairs policy) and thus replaced the Trevi Group [see also p. 39206].

Report of Court of Auditors - Findings on fraud and inefficiency

A 404-page report on EC finances in 1992 was published on Nov. 16 by the Court of Auditors.

The Court found that during 1992 ECU 115 million out of a total budget of ECU 61,000 million had been misspent as a result of weak management, poor financial controls or fraud. A further ECU 47,000 million due in revenue had not been received (ECU 1=1.21090 as at Dec. 31, 1992).

Among the issues raised were EC-funded promotion of the 1992 Olympic Games (in Albertville, France, and Barcelona, Spain—see p. 39074); the cost of storage of cereals and milk products which came to ECU 4,500 million; a programme to provide subsidized milk for schools which had only benefited one in 10 schoolchildren; and the despatch to Moscow and St Petersburg of 20,500 tonnes of rapeseed for which there was no demand.

Tighter banking supervision measures - Criticism of Commission proposals on economy and unemployment

On Nov. 22, EU finance ministers approved measures to strengthen the supervisory powers of banking authorities over financial institutions including banks, credit institutions and insurance businesses. The Commission had presented these proposals following the 1991 collapse of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International [see p. 38355]. They still required an opinion from the European Parliament before they could be formally adopted.

Finance ministers also criticized a Commission White Paper, *Restoring growth and employment—strengthening convergence*, which intended to create 15,000,000 jobs by 2000.

Among the measures envisaged were (i) a cut in average EU short-term interest rates of 2-3 percentage points, conditional upon curbs in wage rises and public deficits; (ii) a cap on real wage rises set at 1 percentage point below the rate of productivity increase; (iii) an inflation rate target of 2-3 per cent by 1996; and (iv) an annual reduction in taxes and social security charges on labour of between 1 and 2 per cent of EU gross domestic product to reduce the cost of taking on workers.

Interest rate reductions of this magnitude were opposed by Gert Haller, German State Secretary for Finance, since they would lead to an effective devaluation of EU currencies against the rest of the world, which he saw as "a strategic error which would provoke irritation among our trading partners". Work-sharing and reductions in working hours, envisaged in the Paper as a method of creating jobs, were described as "folly" by Kenneth Clarke, UK Chancellor of the Exchequer, and as "defeatist" by Jean-Claude Juncker, Luxembourg Minister for Finance, Labour and the Budget.

As a result, when the Commission formally published its "broad guidelines for the economic policies" of the 12 member states on Nov. 24, it avoided any reference to specific targets except that for inflation. The White Paper on growth, competitiveness and employment, in preparation by European Commission President Jacques Delors had still to be published.

■ Last article pp. 39700-702; reference article pp. R130-32.

ITALY

Municipal elections

The scandal-ridden Christian Democratic Party (DC) and Italian Socialist Party (PSI) and their centrist allies in government suffered heavy defeats in the first round of municipal elections on Nov. 21. The voting, for 424 mayors and councils in all the major cities, provided the most accurate indication thus far of the relative strengths of parties in the run-up to the early general election expected in the first half of 1994.

In a comprehensive rejection of the parties which had been in government for decades, the DC won only around 15 per cent of the vote, while the PSI and the others failed to make any impact. The main victors were the Democratic Party of the Left

(PDS), successor to the communist party (PCI), which gained ground in all parts of the country; the neo-fascist Italian Social Movement (MSI), which replaced the DC as the main party of the right in many southern cities; and the Northern League, which consolidated its position as the largest party in the north.

The elections were held under new rules. Mayors were elected directly for the first time, by absolute majority over two rounds, and the party list supporting the winning candidate would automatically gain 60 per cent of the council seats. The second round of voting was scheduled for Dec. 4.

The only major city where a mayoral candidate gained an absolute majority in the first round was Palermo, the Sicilian capital, where the leader of the anti-Mafia Network (*La Rete*), Leoluca Orlando, won over 76 per cent. Orlando had been the city's mayor from 1985-90, but was ousted when he took strong action against corruption and organized crime.

PDS candidates or PDS-supported candidates (Greens or left-of-centre reformists) were placed first but facing run-offs in the key cities of Rome, Naples, Genoa, Venice and Trieste. The MSI took second place in Rome and Naples, its high-profile candidates being respectively party leader Gianfranco Fini and Alessandra Mussolini (granddaughter of Benito Mussolini, the dictator who held power from 1922 to 1943).

In the two days following the elections, share prices fell sharply and the lira fell to its lowest level ever. In an effort to calm the markets, Prime Minister Carlo Azeglio Ciampi reiterated his government's determination to secure passage of the 1994 budget [see p. 39656], and both the PDS and the Northern League said that they would support it. The adoption of the budget was widely considered the key task of the current legislature before its early dissolution.

On Nov. 23 the influential businessman Silvio Berlusconi, owner of three national television channels and with control of three others, caused great controversy by declaring that if he lived in Rome he would vote for Fini in the second round.

Trentino-Alto Adige elections

Elections were also held on Nov. 21 for the two assemblies of the autonomous provinces which formed the Trentino-Alto Adige region.

The South Tyrol People's Party (SVP), the main representative of the German-speaking community, lost votes in Bolzano (Bozen), one of the joint regional capitals, but retained an absolute majority of 19 out of 35 seats of the Alto Adige regional assembly.

Arrest of secret service officials - Charges against Scalfaro

Italy's secret services, already implicated in terrorist activities, coup plots and corruption, were further discredited as evidence emerged

suggesting that they were involved in large-scale embezzlement.

Several leading officials of SISDE, including Riccardo Malpica, director in 1987-91, were arrested in late October and early November on suspicion of diverting some L 49,000 million (US\$34,000,000) from its secret "reserved fund"—granted annually by parliament for covert operations and not subject to normal accountability controls. The money had allegedly been used to buy property for officials or their families, to set up businesses, or to pay into foreign bank accounts. SISDE's former chief administrator, Maurizio Broccoletti, claimed that money from these secret funds had also been used to pay "salaries" to prominent politicians and to military and police officers.

The affair took a dramatic twist when Malpica and Broccoletti claimed that four successive Christian Democratic Interior Ministers, including President Oscar Scalfaro (who had been Interior Minister in 1983-87), had been among those receiving monthly payments from the secret funds.

The allegation concerning Scalfaro was widely regarded as an attempt to undermine the President's pivotal role in the country's political reform process. Scalfaro denied the allegations in a nationwide television address on Nov. 3, the day they were first reported in the media, describing them as "an attempt to destroy the state". He was given strong support by the government, political parties (except the Northern League and the MSI), trade unions and the media.

On Nov. 5 the Cabinet finalized plans to reform SISDE and its military counterpart, SISMI, to make them fully accountable. A bill was due to be debated in parliament in December.

Alessandro Voci, who had headed SISDE in 1991-92, resigned from his current post as chief of police in Rome on Nov. 9 after admitting that he had known about illegal payments made from the secret fund.

Arrest of De Benedetti

Carlo De Benedetti, one of Italy's best-known businessmen, head of the Olivetti computer company and of a publishing group, gave himself up to the police on Nov. 2, three days after Rome magistrates had issued a warrant for his arrest in relation to bribery charges. He was interrogated and briefly imprisoned before being released into house arrest, from which he was released on Nov. 11.

He was charged with authorizing bribes of up to L 10,000 million (US\$7,000,000) to obtain contracts from the state postal service for Olivetti equipment. The warrant accused him of being involved in a "massive system of administrative and political corruption". He had previously been questioned on related matters in Milan in May [see p. 39481].

In an unrelated case, De Benedetti was on Nov. 16 cleared on appeal of any wrongdoing in the collapse of the Banco Ambrosiano in 1982, of which he had briefly been deputy chairman [see pp. 38114; 38870].

Identification of Falcone killers

Sicilian magistrates on Nov. 12 revealed the names of 18 Mafia members whom they believed to be responsible for the murder of Giovanni Falcone, the magistrate who was killed with his wife and three bodyguards in a car bombing in May 1992 [see pp. 38895-96]. They said that the assassination was organized by the Corleone clan, but they were still trying to establish who had ordered it and whether members of the secret services were involved. Their findings were based on sophisticated forensic techniques, tapping of telephones used by Mafia members, and confessions of a Mafia informer.

Death of Mafia boss

Luciano Liggio, the Mafia "boss of bosses" who turned the Corleone clan into Sicily's dominant criminal organization, died in prison on Nov. 15 at the age of 68.

Liggio had gained control of the Corleone clan in 1958, and was instrumental in its subsequent diversification into building speculation and tobacco and drug trafficking. He was first arrested in 1964, released in 1969 and rearrested in 1974. He was succeeded as informal head of the Mafia by Salvatore Riina, who was himself arrested in January 1993 [see p. 39289].

■ Last article pp. 39705-06; reference article R113-14.

SPAIN**Ending of social pact talks**

Three months of talks ended on Nov. 30 with a failure to agree on a "social pact" between the government, employers and trade unions, on incomes policy and labour reforms [see pp. 39571; 39655].

The CCOO and UGT trade union confederations on Nov. 25 had staged large protest marches in 50 cities (40,000 people participated in Madrid and 60,000 in Barcelona) against government attempts to increase competitiveness through the imposition of wage restraint, the reduction of social security payments, and the reform of labour market legislation to sanction the use of part-time employment and easier dismissal procedures. Employers, on the other hand, described such reforms as too weak.

Resignation of Interior Minister

Adding to the mounting crisis of confidence in the minority government of Prime Minister Felipe González Márquez was the resignation on Nov. 23 of the Interior Minister, José Luis Corcuera Cuesta, widely respected for his successes against the Basque separatist ETA guerrillas and against drug-related crime. He was replaced on Nov. 24 by Antoni Asunción, the former Director of Prisons.

Corcuera, Interior Minister since 1988, had staked his reputation on the Law for the Protection of Citizen Security, Article 21.2 of which allowed police to enter houses forcibly without a warrant. The 12-member Tribunal Constitucional (the Su-

preme Court) ruled on Nov. 17, however, that the article infringed citizens' rights.

An estimated 800 people detained and charged as a result of application of the article were expected to have their cases reviewed.

Provincial and municipal government crisis

The national meeting of 1,500 representatives of provincial and local government (FEMP), held in the north-western city of La Coruña on Nov. 6, gave the government two months to honour a two-year-old pledge of more financial assistance, and threatened otherwise to cut services.

Facing total debts of 300,000 million ptas, the FEMP demanded 50,000 million ptas to cover 1992 outlays (US\$1.00=135.056 ptas as at Nov. 8, 1993), and action to address the problem of the distribution of responsibilities between central, autonomous and local governments.

Attack on Basque police chief

In its first attack on the autonomous Basque police (Ertzaintza), members of the Basque separatist movement ETA seriously wounded Sgt.-Maj. Joseba Goikoetxea, a founder member, on Nov. 22. He died in hospital on Nov. 26.

Thousands of Basques demonstrated against the killing on Nov. 27 in the Basque capital, Bilbao.

■ Last article p. 39705; reference article p. R123-24.

PORTUGAL**Torture allegations**

The London-based human rights organization Amnesty International (AI) gave details on Nov. 15 of numerous complaints concerning the torture of prisoners by police and prison officers.

Most of the complaints, made by detainees in Portuguese prisons, related to alleged kickings, punches, kneelings, pistol-whippings and beatings with truncheons. In its report, Amnesty commented that "it is unusual and highly disturbing to receive such a large number of allegations from a European [Union] member", adding that it considered that "public service officers from all branches of law enforcement and prison services are acting with virtual impunity".

■ Last article p. 39613; reference article pp. R119-20.

FRANCE**Constitutional amendment supporting asylum law**

The National Assembly and the Senate, convened jointly in Versailles on Nov. 19 as the Congress, approved an amendment to the Constitution strengthening controls on asylum seekers.

The constitutional amendment, which had been deemed "indispensable" by the *Conseil d'état* (the State Council) in September [see p. 39655], allowed the government to refuse to examine a re-

quest for asylum already turned down by another member of the European Union (EU, previously the EC). Deputies and senators endorsed the amendment by 698 votes to 157, with 10 abstentions. Speaking afterwards Prime Minister Edouard Balladur said that the amendment made the granting of asylum "a prerogative of the state and no longer just the right of the individual".

On Nov. 26 the government reintroduced a revised immigration bill taking into account objections raised by the *Conseil constitutionnel* (Constitutional Council) in August [see p. 39612].

Senate approval of employment law

The Senate on Nov. 10 approved by 219 votes to 86, with 10 abstentions, a five-year employment law already passed by the National Assembly in October [see p. 39705]. The final Senate vote came after several substantial amendments, including the introduction of an optional 32-hour working week, as favoured by right-wing legislators, to finance the government's experimental plans to reduce unemployment.

Pronouncement on Tapie

A National Assembly commission on Nov. 17 recommended that former government minister Bernard Tapie, who was alleged to have conducted corrupt business deals, should lose his parliamentary immunity from prosecution to allow questioning by investigators.

Further industrial unrest

Almost 10,000 public-sector workers demonstrated in Paris on Nov. 18 in protest against the government's privatization plans.

Leading the march were workers from Air France which in October had forced the government to withdraw its restructuring programme for the company [see pp. 39704-05], as well as employees of several other major state-owned enterprises intended for eventual sale. Trade unions representing workers at the state-owned aerospace group Aerospatiale in Toulouse also called a simultaneous strike.

A massive student demonstration was held on Nov. 15 in Paris in protest against overcrowding and a shortage of lecturers at French universities. A series of other strikes by electricity and gas workers, employees of the domestic airline Air Inter, and arts and theatre groups was called on Nov. 23-25.

Ban on Muslim headscarves

Four Muslim girls at a secondary school in the eastern town of Nantua were suspended from classes on Nov. 5 for refusing to comply with an order to take off their headscarves. In October teachers at the school had argued that the scarves were religious symbols and that the wearing of them undermined the school's secular status.

In 1989 the *Conseil d'état* (the State Council) had ruled that Muslim girls could wear headscarves in school without infringing the country's secular education but that teachers had the right, in certain circumstances, to ban students who insisted on wearing the scarves [see also p. 37134].

Arrest of Médecin

The former mayor of Nice, Jacques Médecin, who had been sentenced in absentia on charges of bribery and corruption in January 1992 [see pp. 37719-20; 38736], was arrested under an Interpol warrant on Nov. 26 in Punta del Este, Uruguay, where he had lived since fleeing France in 1990. In early November France had demanded Médecin's extradition, despite the absence of a formal extradition treaty with Uruguay, after indications that Uruguay was unlikely to grant him political asylum.

New leader of Green Party

In a decisive move to the left, delegates of the Green Party (*les Verts*) at the annual party conference in Lille on Nov. 12-14 voted overwhelmingly to elect Dominique Voynet as party leader in place of Antoine Waechter, who had held the post since 1986.

Delegates blamed Waechter's rigid opposition to political alliances with other parties for the Green Party's failure to win a single seat in the March general election [see pp. 39381-82].

■ Last article p. 39704-05; reference article pp. R107-08.

GERMANY

Withdrawal of CDU presidential candidate

Steffen Heitmann withdrew on Nov. 25 as the candidate of the ruling Christian Democrats (CDU/CSU) for the May 1994 presidential elections. Heitmann had been strongly criticized in the media for his controversial views on the role of women and on Germany's Nazi past. Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who had staunchly supported Heitmann's candidacy and whose personal prestige suffered as a result of his withdrawal, described the criticisms in the media as an "intolerable campaign of personal attacks and defamation".

The CDU suffered a further setback on Nov. 28 when the government of the eastern *Land* (state) of Saxony-Anhalt resigned amid criticism of alleged overpayments to four of its members, all westerners. Werner Münch, the CDU Minister President, and three other ministers (two from the CDU and one Free Democrat—FDP) were alleged to have overpaid themselves DM 900,000 over the preceding two years. (US\$1.00=DM 1.7111 as at Nov. 26, 1993.)

Christoph Bergner of the CDU was elected to form a new government in Saxony-Anhalt on Dec. 2.

Approval of 1994 budget

The *Bundestag* (lower house of parliament) on Nov. 26 approved the 1994 federal budget presented in July [see p. 39612]. As approved it provided for a deficit of DM 69,100 million as compared with DM 67,500 million originally envisaged and DM 72,000 million expected in 1993.

Labour and social affairs spending, at DM 130,400 million, was the largest item of expenditure, followed by DM 67,100 million for servicing the federal deficit, DM 53,800 million for transport and DM 48,500 million for defence.

Earlier, on Oct. 1, the *Bundestag* had approved a 20 per cent cut in salaries on 10 national holidays to help finance a new benefits plan for the elderly. This law did not need approval by the *Bundesrat* (upper house) and would take effect on Jan. 1, 1994, although trade unions threatened strikes if it were implemented and threatened to challenge the bill in the Constitutional Court.

Against a background of rising unemployment [*ibid.*], the vehicle manufacturer Volkswagen and the IG Metall union on Nov. 25 agreed to introduce a four-day, 28.8-hour working week from Jan. 1, 1994 (as opposed to the existing 36-hour week), and pay cuts of nearly 10 per cent, as an alternative to 30,000 redundancies out of Volkswagen's total German workforce of 100,000 over the next two years.

HIV-contaminated blood scandal

On Nov. 12 the Health Minister Horst Seehofer announced measures to improve testing of blood products. This followed the discovery that a Koblenz company, UB Plasma, had failed to test blood adequately before selling it to hospitals in Germany and other countries. Seehofer also announced the creation of a DM 20,000,000 fund to compensate AIDS victims who had acquired the HIV virus through a transfusion of contaminated blood.

The scandal had broken on Oct. 6 when two government health officials were dismissed for failing to pass on reports on nearly 400 AIDS victims who might have caught the HIV virus from contaminated blood. UB Plasma was closed down at the end of October and the manager and three others were charged with fraud, negligent killing, and breaking laws on pharmaceutical products. A second company, Haemoplas, in Osterode (near Hannover), was closed on Nov. 10.

Compensation for expropriated property

On Nov. 23 the government reached a decision on compensation for those whose property had been expropriated in 1945-49, as provided for in the 1990 Treaty on the Final Settlement at the time of unification [see p. 37834]. Government bonds which would mature in 2004, rather than a tax on those reclaiming their property (as at first proposed), would be used to settle claims totalling DM 18,000 million.

Unveiling of war memorial

On Nov. 14 Kohl unveiled in Berlin a memorial "to the victims of war and tyranny", declaring it to be "an important symbol of reunited Germany".

The memorial, at the former Prussian guardhouse on the Unter den Linden thoroughfare, was criticized for failing to distinguish between victims and perpetrators. As a result a plaque was affixed outside the main entrance carrying a quotation from a 1985 speech by President Richard von Weizsäcker naming some of the groups which fell victim to the Nazi regime.

Grams affair aftermath

A final independent report published on Nov. 21 by the Zürich city police, concerning the June killing in eastern Germany of Wolfgang Grams when an anti-terrorist unit tried to arrest him [see also pp. 39572; 39653], "practically excluded" any "execution-like" shooting of Grams and found that he had been killed by his own weapon either as suicide or by accident.

RAF trial

On Nov. 24 a Frankfurt court sentenced Rolf Klemens Wagner, a member of the Red Army Faction, to life imprisonment for his part in the attempted assassination of Gen. Alexander Haig in 1979 [see p. 29913].

[For banning of the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) and 35 related organizations on Nov. 26 see p. 39756.]

■ Last article p. 39702; reference article pp. R109-10.

UNITED KINGDOM

1994-95 budget

On Nov. 30 the Chancellor of the Exchequer Kenneth Clarke introduced the unified budget for the financial year commencing April 1994, combining for the first time both expenditure and revenue aspects.

The budget followed hard-fought negotiations within the Cabinet on spending programmes, and the expenditure "new control total" for 1994-95 of £251,300 million represented, after certain classification changes, a reduction of £3,600 million compared with the figure projected in March 1993. The public-sector borrowing requirement would be cut from £49,800 million in 1993-94 to £37,900 million, compared with the previous forecast of about £44,000 million.

New fiscal measures (in addition to the range of taxes for future years already announced in March by Clarke's predecessor Norman Lamont—see p. 39383) would increase tax receipts by £1,675 million in 1994-95, by £4,895 million in 1995-96 and by £6,075 million in 1996-97 (after taking into account the overall effect of forecast inflation). Personal income tax allowances were generally to be frozen; mortgage interest tax relief was to be further restricted; new taxes would be introduced on airport passenger departures and on most non-life insurance premiums; and steps were to be taken to reduce tax avoidance. Tax changes for future years would include real increases in road fuel and tobacco duties by at least 5 per cent and at least 3 per cent respectively.

Changes in social security and associated programmes included (i) replacement of unemployment benefit by a new job-seeker's allowance which would be means-tested after only six months; (ii) introduction of a new child care allowance for those receiving family credit; (iii) refocusing of invalidity and sickness benefits as a new, taxable incapacity benefit; and (iv) a reduction in employers' national insurance contributions. The qualifying age for state retirement pensions for women would, by 2020, be aligned with that for men at 65 [for 1990 European Court of Justice

ruling on equality of pension entitlement see p. 38506]. The elderly would receive some compensation for the controversial extension of value-added tax (VAT) to domestic fuel and power, already announced in March.

Parliamentary conflict over Railways Bill

The government in early November finally obtained parliamentary approval for its railway privatization legislation, which was enacted on Nov. 5; this was achieved only after protracted conflict between the House of Commons and House of Lords over the future role of British Rail (BR) itself.

The Lords had in July [see p. 39572] inserted into the Railways Bill, against the wishes of the government, an amendment to allow BR to compete with prospective private-sector operators in bidding for rail service franchises. On Nov. 2-3 the disagreement between Commons and Lords continued, until on Nov. 4 the Lords finally accepted a Commons version whereby, subject to certain conditions, BR might be excluded from tendering for a franchise. Railway privatization had been included in the Conservative Party's 1992 election manifesto, and any further failure to agree by the Lords could have led to the invocation of the provisions of the Parliament Acts, under which the legislation could be re-presented in the next session of parliament, passed by the Commons alone, and then sent directly for royal assent [for last recourse to such procedure, for the War Crimes Act, see p. 38501].

The "back to basics" issue

Prime Minister John Major re-emphasized the Conservative government's concentration on a "back to basics" political philosophy [see also p. 39703], in his Nov. 18 speech in the House of Commons debate on the programme for the new session of parliament. He also placed a high priority on securing peace in Northern Ireland [see this page], and pledged to intensify the fight against crime.

Major promised that his government would seek to restore economic values such as low inflation, free markets and a climate which encouraged free enterprise, and also basic social values such as self-discipline, respect for the law, concern for others, individual responsibility and an emphasis on getting the basics of education right.

Earlier, in a speech on Nov. 10, the Home Secretary Michael Howard had criticized "trendy theories" which tried to "explain away crime by blaming socio-economic factors". The issues of crime and responsibility were again to the fore with the much-publicized trial and conviction (on Nov. 24) of two 11-year-old boys for the murder in February 1993 of two-year-old James Bulger [see p. 39335]. The verdicts and the sentences (detention during Her Majesty's pleasure) aroused public debate both over the criminal justice procedure in the case of juveniles, and over the roles of the government, the churches, parents, the education system and others in the upbringing of children and the inculcation of moral values.

Approval of ordination of women priests

Legislation allowing the ordination of women priests within the Church of England completed its passage through the Commons (on Oct. 29) and Lords (on Nov. 2) and received

royal assent on Nov. 5. The Church of England General Synod on Nov. 11 approved a corresponding Act of Synod.

Sentencing in fraud cases

Terry Ramsden, former head of the investment dealing company Glen International which collapsed in 1987 with huge debts, was on Nov. 19 sentenced to two years' imprisonment, suspended for two years, after pleading guilty to four charges of fraud. Ramsden, who had specialized in the Japanese warrants market, admitted making reckless or false statements in order to induce investments. On Nov. 26 Roger Levitt was sentenced to 180 hours of community service after pleading guilty to one charge of deceiving the financial regulator FIMBRA about the financial state of his insurance group which had collapsed in December 1990; about 20 other charges against him were dropped.

■ Last article p. 39703; reference article pp. R127-28.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Contacts with IRA

The UK government on Nov. 29 disclosed details of its hitherto unacknowledged exchanges of communications with the Irish Republican Army (IRA) over a nine-month period from February 1993, concerning the ending of violence and the opening of a dialogue on the future of Northern Ireland.

The UK Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Sir Patrick Mayhew, and Prime Minister John Major had denied on a number of occasions, in November and previously, that there had been "talks" or "negotiations" with the IRA or with the republican political organization *Sinn Féin*. In particular, Major said in the Commons on Nov. 1 that talking to terrorists would "turn my stomach" and that "we will not do it". Conversely, he reiterated in his speech at the Guildhall on Nov. 15 that *Sinn Féin* could "enter the political arena as a democratic party and join the dialogue" if (but only if) "the IRA end violence for good". The *Sinn Féin* leader Gerry Adams said later that day that there was already "protracted contact and dialogue" between representatives of his party and the British government, but Mayhew denied this on Nov. 16. (*Sinn Féin* sources indicated that Martin McGuinness had represented the party in meetings with an unnamed British envoy earlier in the year. Michael Mates, who resigned as Minister of State at the Northern Ireland Office over an unrelated issue in June [see p. 39526], denied on Nov. 17 the suggestion by a prominent unionist that he had been the envoy.)

Speaking in the House of Commons respectively on Nov. 29 and Nov. 30, Mayhew and Major both now defended the government's position against the accusation of deception, arguing that the exchange of communications, and the use since February of "authorized contacts" through a confidential channel established some years earlier, did not constitute "talks". More persuasively, they emphasised that the exchanges had been worth pursuing as they had begun with an IRA offer to end violence [see below]. The indignant reaction of

some Northern Ireland political leaders was symbolized in an incident when the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) leader the Rev. Ian Paisley was "named" and compelled by the Speaker to leave the House of Commons on Nov. 29 for unacceptable parliamentary behaviour when he accused Mayhew of lying.

UK government documentation on communications with IRA

The 39 pages of messages made public on Nov. 29 (after the *Observer* newspaper had obtained, and published on Nov. 28, a copy of one of the documents) were those which the UK government said that it had sent to, and received (either orally or in writing) from, the IRA between Feb. 22 and Nov. 5. The accuracy of the portrayal of messages from the IRA was disputed by McGuinness, who described some of the government documents as fabrications. The papers made public included the following.

Feb. 22 first oral communication from IRA expressing desire for "an unannounced ceasefire" and "dialogue leading to peace", stating that "the conflict is over but we need your advice on how to bring it to a close". British government response on *Feb. 26* that "we understand and appreciate the seriousness of what has been said", and promising a "comprehensive and substantive reply" which will "be influenced by events on the ground". IRA oral message on *March 5* looking forward to meeting "as soon as possible". Further government message on *March 11* referring to recent IRA killings and insisting on "some evidence of consistency between word and deed".

March 19 government position paper sent to IRA suggesting a fresh assessment of "the whole range of responses to it" if there were "a genuine and established ending of violence".

March 22 IRA message accepting responsibility "with total sadness" for March 20 Warrington bombing, "the last thing we needed at this sensitive time".

May 5, 6 and 7 government messages that dialogue could only follow a clear ending of violence. IRA responses on *May 10* asking when face-to-face meetings could start, and on *June 1* expressing concern that "the future looks bleak for all concerned".

July 11 and Aug. 30 IRA complaints about leaks by British government, described as "unauthorised" in government message on *Sept. 3*.

July 17 government complaint that it was "not acceptable" for IRA to imply that "unless your analysis of the way forward is accepted... the halt in violence will be only temporary". IRA position paper on *July 22* stating that "it is time to move on" from the positions outlined by each side, to a "genuine, realistic and democratic peace process"; followed by IRA complaint on *Aug. 14* about "the inflexibility of your most recent communication". Government message on *Sept. 3* that "minds do not seem to be meeting at the moment" and again insisting on an end to violence "before the process could begin".

Nov. 2 IRA message, received following recent upsurge in violence [see p. 39703], allegedly stating that "the country could be at the point of no return" and asking "as a matter of urgency when

you will open dialogue in the event of a total end to hostilities". Nov. 5 government response suggesting "a first meeting for exploratory dialogue... within a week of parliament's return in January" if there was a genuine end to violence in the next few days.

Prospects for peace initiative

On the substantive issue of a peace initiative, Major had on Nov. 1 rejected the Hume-Adams initiative [see pp. 39654; 39703] but promised to table comprehensive proposals to give "focus and direction" to the existing but stalled process of talks involving the British and Irish governments and the Northern Ireland constitutional parties. Major met leaders of the four parties concerned on Nov. 4. Subsequently, in his speech to the Commons marking the opening of the new parliamentary session on Nov. 18, he confirmed suggestions that talks might proceed without DUP participation if necessary, stating that "no party or organization" could exercise a veto.

Major's contacts with Irish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds [see pp. 39703-04] had concentrated attention on prospects for a joint initiative, with Reynolds speaking on television on Nov. 7 of a possible "beginning of peace before Christmas".

A draft position paper drawn up for the Irish government was leaked to the press on Nov. 19, suggesting (controversially for republicans) that Ireland formally renounce its territorial claim to the six counties of the North, and (controversially for unionists) that the British government acknowledge the legitimacy of the goal of Irish unity. Amid denials from Reynolds that this draft paper represented in any way his government's position, Major gave fresh assurances to unionists that the "constitutional guarantee" requiring majority consent was not negotiable. Major and Reynolds spoke by telephone on Nov. 29, as efforts continued to draft an acceptable joint communiqué for their summit meeting which had been envisaged for Dec. 3 in Dublin, the Irish capital.

It was unclear as of the end of November to what extent the DUP's hardline stance would be sustained by popular sentiment within the Protestant community in Northern Ireland, or what line would be taken by the larger Ulster Unionist Party led by James Molyneux, if negotiations ultimately including *Sinn Féin* or the IRA were to be incorporated as part of a wider peace process. In the first political killing in Northern Ireland for several weeks (and with no major IRA attacks reported since Nov. 12), a Catholic man was shot as he left his Belfast workplace on Nov. 30 by members of the unionist paramilitary Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF).

■ Last article pp. 39703-04; reference article p. R128.

GREECE

New opposition leader

Miltiades Evert was elected leader of the centre-right New Democracy (ND) on Nov. 3.

Evert succeeded Constantine Mitsotakis, who had resigned following the party's defeat in the general

election in October [see p. 39706]. An economist by training, Evert had been Minister of Finance in 1980-81 and mayor of Athens in 1986-90. He was Minister to the Prime Minister from April 1990 until he was dismissed by Mitsotakis in October 1991 for criticizing the government's free-market policies [see p. 38546].

Arrest of US diplomats

Two US diplomats apparently involved in a covert surveillance operation were arrested in Athens on Nov. 16.

The two men were found in a van with false licence plates containing small arms, a portable radio and wigs. Since they had diplomatic immunity, they were released the same night and reportedly left Greece the following day. Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias made an official complaint to the US ambassador.

Neither the Greek authorities nor the US embassy was willing to comment on the men's activities, but it was generally believed that they were planning to monitor a demonstration on Nov. 17 marking the 20th anniversary of a student uprising against the military dictatorship (in power from 1967 to 1974), widely seen as US-supported; these annual demonstrations were traditionally strongly anti-US. Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou commented that the incident had been aimed at harming Greek-US relations, but that it would not affect relations between the two countries.

■ Last article p. 39706; reference article p. R111.

CYPRUS

Progress of UN settlement effort

Joe Clark, the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative, had separate meetings on Nov. 9 with President Glafkos Clerides and with Rauf Denktash, President of the self-proclaimed Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC).

Meetings between European Union (EU, previously the EC) foreign ministers and Greek and Turkish representatives in Brussels on Nov. 8 had reportedly resulted in a Turkish statement of support for recent UN measures to encourage a Cyprus settlement [see p. 39707], and a Greek concession in the form of the withdrawal of objections to a customs union between Turkey and the EU.

Following the Brussels meetings, however, the Turkish Foreign Minister, Hikmet Cetin, while acknowledging Turkey's commitment to a political agreement in Cyprus, restated Turkish objections to the presence of an EU observer at future talks. Before his Nov. 9 meeting with Clark, Denktash told reporters that if the EU decided to appoint an observer to future talks it would mean the end of the talks.

The UN proposals were understood to include a UN administration for the beach resort of Famagusta, and possibly the reopening of Nicosia airport to tourists to both parts of the island. Turkish Cypriot leaders had previously said that they could not

agree to these measures without a lead from the Turkish government.

Defence agreement with Greece

After a meeting between Clerides and Andreas Papandreou, the Greek Prime Minister, Cyprus and Greece agreed to adopt a common defence policy and warned against any Turkish military advance in Cyprus, in an announcement in Athens on Nov. 16.

Denktash was quoted on Nov. 17 as saying that a similar agreement had to be signed immediately between the TRNC and Turkey.

■ Last article p. 39707; reference article p. R104.

TURKEY

New measures against Kurds

Prime Minister Tansu Ciller announced tough new anti-terrorist measures on Nov. 4 aimed at suppressing the Kurdish rebellion in the south-east. The headline strategy formulated in response to growing political and military pressure [see p. 39706] included the creation of a 10,000-strong force trained in anti-guerilla tactics.

Ciller said that the measures were necessary to implement a comprehensive social and economic development package for the south-eastern region worth US\$750 million. Her government had recently cancelled all public works in the region, after reports that contractors were being forced to pay protection money to rebels belonging to the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

Ciller also repeated a warning to Turkey's immediate neighbours, including Armenia, Iran, Iraq and Syria, not to allow the use of their territories as training bases by the PKK. In early November Turkish officials had visited Damascus in an effort to persuade Syria to withdraw its backing for the PKK. On Nov. 15 Interior Minister Nahit Metense announced that the government had reached an agreement with Iran against supporting the PKK.

On Nov. 12 the daily newspaper *Hurriyet* published what purported to be a letter from the late President Turgut Ozal to former Prime Minister (now President) Suleyman Demirel, advocating the wholesale transfer of the Kurdish population from mountain villages in the south-east in order to undermine logistical systems of support for the PKK.

A US national and a New Zealander taken hostage by Kurdish rebels in October were released on Nov. 19.

Arrest of pro-Kurdish leaders

Kemal Bilgit, deputy leader of the pro-Kurdish Democracy Party (HEP), was arrested on Nov. 23 after being accused of attempting to "subvert" the Constitution.

On Oct. 20 HEP leader Yasar Kaya, who had been arrested in September on charges of disseminating "separatist propaganda" [see p. 39657], was given a two-year prison sentence by a State Security court in Ankara.

A military court on Nov. 11 sentenced 15 members of the PKK to death on terrorism charges at the end of a mass trial in Diyarbakir. The death penalty, although still in force, had not been applied since 1983.

Foreign bans on pro-Kurdish groups

Germany on Nov. 26 announced a ban on the PKK after blaming it for a series of attacks against Turkish consulates and businesses in Germany, including an attack in Wiesbaden on Nov. 4 in which one person died. Simultaneous attacks were reported in London and the French city of Strasbourg. In June Kurdish activists had launched a similar campaign across western Europe [see p. 39530].

The ban was welcomed by Turkey as "a very important step" and a vindication of its recent demand that Germany end its tolerant policy towards the PKK [see p. 39657].

On Nov. 30 France ordered a ban on the activities of the Kurdistan Committee and the Federation of Kurdistan Cultural Associations and Patriotic Workers, saying that they were front organizations for the PKK. Some 80 Turkish Kurds suspected of having links with the PKK had been arrested in France on Nov. 18.

Re-election of Ciller as DYP leader

Ciller was re-elected leader of the ruling True Path Party (DYP) by an overwhelming majority on Nov. 20, at the party's annual convention in Ankara. She polled 1,045 votes against 29 for a little-known contender, Mehmet Kucuk.

A Cabinet reshuffle announced on Nov. 28, which replaced five DYP ministers with Ciller's close allies, consolidated Ciller's political authority.

Cancellation of government decrees

The Constitutional Court on Nov. 26 cancelled new banking legislation aimed at bringing Turkey into line with European standards.

An earlier Court ruling, in October, had blocked the sale by decree of the state telecommunications monopoly (PTT), the cornerstone of the government's privatization programme. In June the government had used its decree powers under an enabling act, bypassing the Grand National Assembly to push through banking, insurance and privatization reforms [see p. 39530]. So far eight such decrees had been cancelled by the Constitutional Court.

1994 budget

The government's 1994 budget unveiled on Oct. 27 projected an increase of 2.4 per cent in public-sector investment and 8.7 per cent in the private sector in 1994. Figures for current economic performance showed that gross national product (GNP), which in 1992 had risen by 5.2 per cent, increased to 9.4 per cent in the first half of 1993. The current year-on-year inflation rate, at around 60 per cent, was almost unchanged from 1992.

Demirel's visit to Poland

President Demirel paid an official visit to Poland on Nov. 2-4.

■ Last article pp. 39706-77; reference article pp. R125-26.

WEU

Inauguration of Eurocorps

At a ceremony in Strasbourg on Nov. 5 the French, German and Belgian Defence Ministers (François Léotard, Volker Rühe and Léo Delcroix respectively) formally inaugurated the European corps (Eurocorps).

Based on the Franco-German brigade established in 1989, the Eurocorps currently comprised 6,000 troops; their number would rise to 50,000 by 1995. Belgium had decided to join the Eurocorps in June 1993 [see p. 39530] and on Oct. 12 formally signed an agreement to this effect.

At a meeting of foreign and defence ministers of the Western European Union (WEU) in Luxembourg on Nov. 22-23 Spain announced that it would join the Eurocorps and contribute 3,500 troops. The meeting also decided that Dutch would, as strongly requested by Delcroix, be added to French and German as the corps' official languages.

■ Last articles pp. 39530; 39538; reference article p. R132.

MIDDLE EAST - ARAB WORLD

MIDDLE EAST

Israeli-Palestinian negotiations

The joint Israeli-Palestinian technical committee met on a number of occasions in Egypt in November to prepare a protocol for Israel's military withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, scheduled to start on Dec. 13 [see p. 39708 for meetings of committee in October]. Although some progress was reported, as of late November the talks remained stalled on the three key issues: Palestinian prisoners, the boundaries of Jericho, and arrangements for border security. In early November the venue of the talks had been shifted from Taba to Cairo.

In an interview on Nov. 27, Israeli Prime Minister Itzhak Rabin said that he did not regard Dec. 13 as "sacred" and that it was important to ensure that all the autonomy issues were completely clarified before a pull-out was enacted.

Establishment of Palestinian development agency

On Nov. 4 the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) formally established an Economic Council for Development and Construction (ECDC) to administer international aid [see

IN BRIEF

DENMARK: In municipal and regional elections on Nov. 16 the ruling Social Democrats remained the largest party with 34 per cent of the vote, but the opposition Liberals (*Venstre*) won 27 per cent (compared with 18 per cent in 1989—see p. 37674); the Conservatives won 13 per cent.

LATVIA: Erratum. The IMF on Oct. 27 approved credits of SDR 23,250,000 to Estonia, not Latvia as given on p. 39700.

LITHUANIA: President Algirdas Brazauskas said after meeting Russian President Boris Yeltsin on Nov. 4 in Vilnius that he anticipated "a new era in relations between the Baltic States and Russia". However the meeting failed to resolve the stalemate over several matters, including a free trade agreement.

MOLDOVA: President Mircea Snegur on Nov. 29 appointed Nicolae Tiu, hitherto Foreign Minister, to be the first Moldovan ambassador to the USA.

SWITZERLAND: A number of propositions were put to a referendum on Nov. 28, the most significant being the replacement of existing goods turnover tax from January 1995 with value added tax (VAT) on goods and services, which received approval from 66.7 per cent of voters (having rejected the move on three previous occasions in 1977, 1979 and 1991); voters also rejected "twin" proposals to ban tobacco and alcohol advertising.

pp. 39708-09 for aid conference held in Washington in October).

Initially, the 14-member Council was to be chaired by Yassir Arafat, the PLO chair, but he later withdrew from the post after the PLO was accused by Palestinians and international donors of appointing politicians to the Council at the expense of trained economists. Arafat was replaced by Farouk Qadumi, the PLO's veteran "foreign minister", and the powers of Ahmed Qurie (Abu Ala), the executive director and PLO economics expert, were enhanced.

Palestinian-Israeli economic talks - Reports of PLO financial crisis

Israeli and Palestinian delegations held a first round of economic talks in Paris on Nov. 16. The two delegations were headed by Qurie for the PLO and Avraham Shocat, the Israeli Finance Minister.

The Palestinian delegation made it clear that they wanted an independent central bank with full powers to issue a Palestinian currency, to control, license and hold the reserves of commercial banks, and to direct monetary policy. Israel reportedly opposed the establishment of a central bank and favoured a gradual handover of monetary policy, starting with a Palestinian currency board. The Palestinian delegation opposed Israel's proposal for a uniform customs and tax regime.

Curie admitted on Nov. 17 that the PLO had been unable to meet its operating expenses for the past five months. He warned that this financial crisis could jeopardise the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

Curie, an Arafat loyalist who had played a major role in the secret peace negotiations with Israel, conceded that the PLO was virtually bankrupt; donors had made promises, but few had delivered aid for operating costs. He claimed that Arafat was finding it increasingly difficult to lead the peace process when he could not even afford to pay his bodyguards.

Diplomatic developments

Reported progress in Jordan-Israel negotiations

Reports in the Israeli media claimed that Israel and Jordan had initialled a peace accord during secret talks in Amman, the Jordanian capital, on Nov. 2 between King Hussein of Jordan and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres [see p. 39709 for talks between Peres and Jordanian Crown Prince Hassan in Washington in early October]. However, during visits to Syria and Egypt in mid-November, King Hussein insisted that he would not sign a separate peace agreement with Israel, sentiments which were immediately welcomed by Syrian officials. The King's visit to Egypt was his first official visit since the 1990-91 Gulf War which severely strained relations between the two countries.

According to the Israeli media reports, under the agreement Israel and Jordan would open their borders, establish full diplomatic relations and start joint projects in tourism, transport and energy. Disputed Israeli-held land around the Dead Sea and Arava desert would be formally returned to Jordan, but leased back to Israel at a nominal price.

According to a report in the Israeli newspaper *Ma'ariv* on Nov. 11, a Jordanian delegation had recently paid a secret visit to Israel for discussions on the economic aspects of a peace accord.

Visit by Arafat to Brussels

Arafat visited Brussels on Nov. 8-9 for talks with Belgian government leaders and officials of the European Union (EU, previously the EC). Throughout his visit Arafat was accorded the status of a head of state.

Multilateral negotiations on regional development

A meeting of the regional economic co-operation strand of the Middle East peace talks, held in Copenhagen, the Danish capital, on Nov. 8-9, agreed on a series of studies and workshops during 1994.

Financed by a US\$9,200,000 grant from the EU, the studies would cover regional co-operation in transport, energy, tourism, financial markets, trade, training and other sectors.

Continued violence in occupied territories

Progress in the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations in Egypt was hampered by an escalation in violence in the occupied territories in late November. The unrest, the worst since the peace agreement between Israel and the PLO was signed in mid-September, erupted when Israeli forces shot and killed a number of "wanted" Palestinian militants.

On Nov. 24 Israeli forces killed Imad Akel, northern Gaza commander of *Qassem*, the military wing of *Hamas*, the foremost "rejectionist" force in the occupied territories. There was violent unrest in the Gaza Strip on Nov. 25, in which one Palestinian was killed and more than 30 others injured.

Another *Qassem* member, Khaled Zer, was shot dead on Nov. 26 by Israeli forces in the village of Surbaber outside Jerusalem. The Israeli army revealed on the same day that troops had killed another Palestinian militant, Salim Sabah, several days earlier.

A member of the *Fatah* Hawks was killed by Israeli troops on Nov. 28 and on the following day several leaders of the faction were arrested, including the commander of the Hawks, Taisir Bardini, accused by the Israelis of murder. The killing and the arrests provoked serious unrest in the Gaza Strip on Nov. 30; as many as 60 Palestinians were wounded during clashes with Israeli troops.

In an unprecedented move, Israeli military officials held talks with *Fatah* leaders in the Gaza Strip on the evening of Nov. 30 in an effort to halt the violence. The meeting ended with both sides promising to try and calm tension in the Strip.

Hamas claimed responsibility for the killing of a Jewish settler near the West Bank town of Hebron on Nov. 7. Following the killing, settlers took to the streets throughout the West Bank; a number of Palestinian shops and cars were attacked.

■ Last article pp. 39708-09.

ISRAEL

Defeat of Kollek in Jerusalem election

Teddy Kollek, the Labour Mayor of Jerusalem, was defeated by his *Likud* rival, Ehud Olmert, in elections held on Nov. 2. Olmert won 59.6 per cent of the vote to Kollek's 34.8. Kollek, aged 82, had served as Mayor of Jerusalem since 1965 and had presided over the city's "unification" in 1967.

The (Labour) Prime Minister, Itzhak Rabin, warned on Nov. 3 that Kollek's defeat could have a damaging impact on Arab-Jewish relations in Jerusalem and on the wider Israeli-Palestinian peace process. According to many commentators, the result was a serious setback for Rabin, who had sought to turn the municipal elections into a vote of confidence in his government's Middle East peace policy. Nevertheless, on Nov. 8 the government easily defeated four no confidence motions tabled in the *Knesset* by the opposition. The motions were

based on accusations that the government was mis-managing negotiations with the Palestinians.

Olmert, a member of the *Knesset* and a former Health Minister, had campaigned on an aggressive policy of Jewish settlement throughout Jerusalem, including areas of the city previously reserved for Arabs. Prior to the election Olmert had come to an agreement with the city's ultra-orthodox religious community, under which the community's candidate had agreed not to stand. Kollek, on the other hand, had failed to persuade the city's Palestinian population to vote for him; Palestinian turnout was reported to have been around 6 per cent.

Municipal elections were held throughout Israel on Nov. 2. *Likud* emerged in control of 47 municipalities, while Labour controlled 39.

Rabin-Clinton talks

Rabin visited the United States and Canada on Nov. 11-21. His talks with US President Bill Clinton in Washington on Nov. 12 focused on the progress made in implementing the September Israel-Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) peace accord, the state of Israel's negotiations with Syria, Lebanon and Jordan [for Middle East peace process see pp. 39756-57], and security issues.

During the meeting Clinton agreed to strengthen Israel's "qualitative security edge" by providing it with advanced ground attack fighter aircraft and by providing assistance in the development of an anti-missile missile. According to the *Middle East International* of Nov. 19, Clinton also "strongly indicated" that he would soon free, or reduce the life sentence imposed on, the US intelligence analyst and Israeli spy Jonathan Jay Pollard in 1987 [see p. 35354]. Clinton was also reported to have told Rabin that he favoured shifting the US embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Reports of gas deals with Egypt and Qatar

Israeli press reports in November claimed that Egypt had agreed to supply natural gas to Israel and the Gaza Strip.

According to the *Middle East Economic Digest* of Dec. 3, Egyptian officials acknowledged that the principle of a gas pipeline to Gaza and Israel had been agreed, but further studies were required to assess the commercial viability of the project.

In late October the government of Qatar issued a strong denial of reports published in a number of Israeli newspapers that Qatar was about to sign an accord with Israel to supply natural gas from its North Field.

Visit by Turkish Foreign Minister

Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin visited Israel in mid-November.

A memorandum of understanding signed by Cetin and his Israeli counterpart, Shimon Peres, was the first written document between the two countries. The memorandum covered mainly economic agreements and included a clause stipulating that both countries would examine the possibility of a free trade agreement. Separate tourism and civil aviation treaties were signed.

Historic visit by Spanish monarch

King Juan Carlos of Spain visited Israel in early November. He was the first reigning

monarch of any country to pay a state visit to Israel.

Juan Carlos was due to have visited in 1992 to mark the 500th anniversary of the Jewish Expulsion from Spain [see p. 38824], but the visit had been postponed because of the illness of the King's father. The 1492 edict expelling the Jews from Spain was officially revoked by the King in 1992.

■ Last article pp. 39709-10; reference article pp. R138-39.

LEBANON

Violence in south

Hezbollah guerrillas launched a co-ordinated offensive on Nov. 16 against positions of the South Lebanon Army (SLA) (the Israeli-backed militia) in and also to the immediate north of Israel's self-declared "security zone".

The violence was the worst since the signing of the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) peace accord in mid-September. Israeli officials claimed that the attack had been ordered by the Syrian government out of frustration at Israel's refusal to meet Syria's peace demands by withdrawing from the Golan Heights. The attack came only a day after Syria had demanded international pressure on Israel for a total withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

The *Hezbollah* fighters overran an SLA garrison in the village of Tallousa, capturing 12 SLA soldiers and wounding two Israeli soldiers. *Hezbollah* later announced that one of its fighters had been killed in the assault. The attack provoked a series of retaliatory Israeli air raids near Baalbek. *Hezbollah* responded by firing a number of Katyusha rockets at Israeli and SLA positions in the "security zone".

Assassination of Palestinian official

Lt.-Col. Mouin Shabaytah, one of the leading *Fatah* officials in Lebanon, was shot dead by an unidentified gunman in the southern city of Sidon on Nov. 15.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but some press reports alleged that the assassin was linked to "rejectionist" opponents of Yassir Arafat, the PLO chair and *Fatah* leader. On Nov. 9 Zeid Wehbe, Arafat's senior political adviser in Lebanon, had narrowly survived an assassination attempt in Sidon.

■ Last article p. 39710; reference article pp. R140-41.

JORDAN

Legislative elections

Elections to the 80-member House of Representatives (lower chamber of the bicameral National Assembly) took place on Nov. 8 [see pp. 37052-53 for previous elections held in November 1989]. The elections were widely regarded as a success for King Hussein. The *Middle East Economic Digest* of Nov. 19 stated that the strong showing by loyalist candidates provided the King with a free hand to complete steps to a full peace accord with Israel [for progress during November of Jor-

dan-Israel track of Middle East peace process see p. 39757].

For the first time since 1956, political parties were permitted to contest the election. Nevertheless, conservative independents loyal to the King emerged as the largest group in the new House. The Islamic Action Front (IAF), backed by the Muslim Brotherhood, won 16 seats and emerged as the largest single party in the House, but the overall strength of the Islamist bloc was reduced. The IAF claimed to have been hampered by changes to the voting law enacted in August [see p. 39615]. Apart from the IAF, the other 20 registered political parties performed poorly, with candidates from six non-IAF parties winning only a single seat each.

Fears that the election would turn into a referendum on September's Israel-Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) peace agreement proved largely unfounded. Commentators reported that voters were primarily concerned with economic and social issues. Despite a lacklustre campaign, the Interior Ministry claimed a voter turnout of 68 per cent.

Toujan Faisal, who was elected in Amman, became the country's first woman member of parliament.

On Nov. 18 King Hussein appointed a 40-member Senate with Ahmad al-Lawzi as its president.

Opening of National Assembly

The King opened the first session of the 12th Jordanian parliament on Nov. 23. The House of Representatives went on to elect former Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri as its speaker.

Armed attack on military post

Three armed men attacked a military post in the Jordan valley on Oct. 29. All three were killed and one soldier also died in the attack.

According to a report on Radio Monte Carlo of Nov. 1, the three men (one Jordanian and two Yemenis) had been "under the influence" of Abdullah Azzam, a Muslim Brotherhood leader killed in Afghanistan in 1989.

■ Last article p. 39710; reference article pp. R139-40.

IRAQ

Agreement on long-term weapons monitoring

Iraq on Nov. 26 accepted long-term international monitoring of its weapons programme under UN Security Council Resolution 715 (1991) [see p. 38548]. The decision, anticipated in a provisional agreement signed in July [see p. 39576], formally reversed the government's previous stance rejecting arms verification as an unwarranted intrusion and offence against Iraq's sovereignty. In a letter to the UN Security Council, Foreign Minister Muhammad Said Kazim al-Sahhaf said that he hoped that the government's "positive" gesture would justify the immediate lifting of international sanctions against Iraq.

The head of the UN Special Commission on Iraq, Rolf Ekeus, engaged in disarmament talks with Iraqi officials in New York since

Nov. 15, described the Iraqi move as "a major breakthrough". There was no immediate reaction from the UN Security Council, which on Nov. 18 had extended sanctions for a further 60 days.

Investigations into chemical weapons attack

A preliminary investigation by the UN Special Commission on Iraq into allegations of Iraqi use of chemical weapons against Shia dissidents in the southern marshes [see p. 39710], was reported by the Iraqi New Agency (INA) on Nov. 23 to have yielded little conclusive evidence. A final report was not expected for several months.

On Nov. 14, UN chemical weapons experts had arrived in Iran to hear the testimony of eye-witnesses. On Nov. 19 they travelled to Iraq where they conducted detailed scientific analyses in the region around the Hammar marshes, the scene of the alleged attacks on Sept. 26. On Nov. 19 Iraq described allegations of its use of chemical weapons as "tendentious" but promised to grant permission to the UN team to travel freely in the country.

Further details had emerged in London on Nov. 7 from a month-long inquiry by a former Iraqi nuclear scientist, Hussein Sharistani, suggesting that Iraqi troops under the command of Defence Minister Ali Hasan al-Majid had used the crude chemical agent, phosgene. Phosgene, a dual-use agent, had not been listed for destruction under UN Security Council Resolution 687 (1991) which ordered the destruction of all stocks of Iraqi chemical weapons stocks based on nerve and mustard gases [see pp. 38164-65].

UN human rights report

The UN special rapporteur for Iraq, Max van der Stoep, submitted a report to the UN Commission of Human Rights (UNCHR) on Nov. 23, in which he accused the government of bombarding the civilian population in the southern marshes and draining wetlands in an effort to subdue Shia dissidents. Stoel who was refused permission to visit Iraq, had relied on reports from Iraqi refugees and dissidents.

The Tehran-based research and human rights group, Gulf War Victims, said on Nov. 12 that the government had secretly extended its plan to drain the southern marshlands and ordered the local population to move north, to migrate to Iran or to face the destruction of their villages.

The New-York based human rights group, Middle East Watch, on Nov. 17 claimed that dozens of senior military and political figures belonging to the ruling Takriti clan had recently been executed for plotting to overthrow President Saddam Hussein [see p. 39663].

Border clash with Kuwait

The UN Security Council on Nov. 24 called on Iraq to respect its boundary with Kuwait. In its statement the Council drew special attention to Iraqi incursions into Kuwait on Nov. 16 and 20. Demonstrators had reportedly crossed the border at Umm Qasr as part of

protests against the building of a security trench by Kuwait.

Release of foreign nationals

A US oil worker and a Filipino arrested for illegal entry were released in mid-November [for release of three Swedes in September see p. 39663].

■ Last article p. 39710; reference article pp. R137-38.

IRAN

Allegations of human rights violations

Iran came under renewed pressure from the UN Commission of Human Rights (UNCHR) in November, and from the human rights group Amnesty International, to improve its human rights record [for 1992 UNCHR report on Iran see p. R136].

On Nov. 18 a Foreign Ministry spokesman strongly repudiated accusations by the UN special rapporteur on Iran, Galindo Pohl, who in a report to the UNCHR in early November had accused the government of planning to assassinate opponents living abroad, and of holding some 20,000 political prisoners. Pohl also alleged that torture was "common throughout the country".

An Amnesty International report published on Nov. 17 expressed concern about the increase in the number of extra-judicial killings, especially of Iranian dissidents abroad, some of which, it suggested, were sanctioned by the government.

Visit by Indonesian President

A visit by Indonesian President Suharto on Nov. 23-26 was heralded by reports of the imminent purchase by Iran of seven French-designed Super Puma helicopters made under licence in Indonesia. Fears that the helicopters, worth US\$80,000,000, could be put to military use were, however, dismissed by officials from both sides.

Relations with France, Sweden and USA - release of German businessman

Relations with France deteriorated after the government protested over France's decision to grant asylum to Maryam Rajavi, leader of the Iraq-based opposition party, the *Mojahedin-e Khalq* (People's Holy Warriors). On Nov. 9 unidentified attackers hurled grenades at the French embassy in Tehran reportedly in protest at the French decision. A government investigation claimed that the attack had been the result of internal feuding within the *Mojahedin e-Khalq*; the *Mojahedin* dismissed the allegation as "absurd".

Three Swedish diplomats were ordered to leave the country on Nov. 18, one day after Sweden had announced the expulsion of three Iranian diplomats on grounds of committing acts "incompatible" with their diplomatic status including the harassment of Iranian refugees in Sweden.

Tension mounted in relations with the USA after the head of the judiciary, Ayatollah Mohammed Yazdi, on Nov. 26 denounced US President Bill

Clinton as "the most hated person in the world". Yazdi's outburst was provoked by Clinton's meeting with the Indian-born British author Salman Rushdie in Washington on Nov. 24 [see also p. 39711].

Gerhard Bachmann, a German businessman arrested in October for making unauthorized contacts with the military, was freed on Nov. 4. His release had been anticipated following recent security talks between Iran and Germany [see p. 39711].

■ Last article p. 39711; reference article pp. R136-37.

SAUDI ARABIA

Agreement with Shia dissidents

Reports on Oct. 28 confirmed an agreement on the suspension of activities by dissident Shias abroad.

According to details revealed by government officials and spokesmen for the Shia opposition Reform Movement, Shia opponents would cease the publication of their newsletter *Arabian Peninsula*, printed and distributed in London, in return for permission to return to Saudi Arabia, the release of an undetermined number of Shia political prisoners and the reissue of passports to other members of the Shia minority.

Saudi Arabia's Shia population was currently estimated to total 700,000 out of a population of some 12,000,000 predominantly Sunni Muslims.

■ Last article p. 39663-64; reference article p. R144.

YEMEN

Deterioration in north-south relations

The crisis in relations between northern and southern Yemen which had become evident in October during elections to the Presidential Council [see p. 39711] appeared to worsen in November. The emergency not only paralysed the political process but raised the spectre of armed conflict between the rival northern and southern armies.

Radio Monte Carlo reported on Nov. 20 that northern and southern army units were redeploying in the contact areas along the former borders. Despite the formal unification of the two halves of Yemen in 1990, the northern and southern armies, police forces, intelligence services and civil services bureaucracies had remained completely separate. French, Omani, Jordanian, Palestinian and US mediation efforts launched in October and November failed to reduce tension between the two sides.

The dispute centred on the two main political personalities in Yemen, Lt-Gen. Ali Abdullah Saleh, the country's President and former leader of North Yemen, and Ali Salim al-Bid, the Vice-President and former leader of South Yemen. Bid had since August refused to leave his southern base in Aden, claiming, among other things, that President Saleh

had refused to make any attempts to halt armed assaults by northern officials against southerners. Bid claimed that some 150 southerners had died in such attacks since unification.

The stand-off between President and Vice-President deteriorated in late August when two of Bid's sons narrowly escaped assassination in Aden; one of his nephews died in the attack. Another assassination attempt against one of his sons failed in mid-November. The *Middle East Economic Digest* of Nov. 26 quoted a southern politician who claimed that if the assassins had succeeded in killing one of Bid's sons then civil war would undoubtedly have ensued.

■ Last article p. 39711; reference article pp. R146-47.

EGYPT

Allegations of human rights violations

The human rights group Amnesty International on Nov. 11 accused the government of breaching its obligations under the UN Convention against Torture by failing to curb the systematic torture of political prisoners [see also p. 39488].

In its statement Amnesty claimed that "despite hundreds of formal complaints of torture... the Egyptian government has simply not investigated these allegations promptly and impartially". On Nov. 22 a government spokesman "utterly rejected" allegations of torture.

Assassination attempt on Prime Minister

Prime Minister Atef Sidki escaped unhurt during an attempted assassination in Cairo on Nov. 25, the third abortive assassination in 1993 involving a government minister [see pp. 39438; 39617]. A massive bomb exploded outside Sidki's home beside his motorcade, killing a 12-year-old schoolgirl and injuring 11 other people. The militant Islamic group *Al Jihad* claimed responsibility for the attack, although the government alleged that its perpetrators were members of the Islamic group Vanguard of Conquest, or New *Jihad* [see pp. 39663; 39712]. On Nov. 26, police were reported to have arrested 100 Muslim militants in connection with the attack.

Two police officers were killed, on Nov. 1 and 10 respectively, by unidentified gunmen in the southern region of Asyut, the scene of recent violence by Islamic militants [see p. 39664].

Further executions

Three Islamic militants found guilty of plotting to overthrow the government were hanged on Nov. 3. Two militants convicted of the attempted murder in July of Gen. Uthman Shahin [see pp. 39578; 39664] were hanged on Nov. 27. The hangings brought to 20 the number of militants executed in 1993.

On Nov. 1 *Al Jihad* called for the assassination of eight judges responsible for the recent sentencing to death of 38 Islamic militants. The threat followed death sentences imposed on

Oct. 30 on eight more defendants belonging to the Vanguard of Conquest.

■ Last article p. 39712; reference article pp. R135-36.

LIBYA

Imposition of tougher sanctions

On Nov. 11 the UN Security Council approved stricter sanctions against Libya.

Mandatory air, arms and diplomatic sanctions had first been imposed in April 1992 under UN Security Council Resolution 748 [see pp. 38883-84], when the Libyan authorities failed to comply with Resolution 731 of January 1992 [see p. 38743], requiring that Libya agree to extradite to the USA or the UK the two Libyans accused of organizing the 1988 bombing of Pan Am flight PA 103 over the Scottish town of Lockerbie [see pp. 36409-10]. Resolution 731 also demanded that Libya co-operate in an inquiry into the destruction of a French UTA aircraft near the Chad-Niger border in 1989 [see p. 36910].

In August 1993 the USA, the UK and France announced that they were agreed on new, tougher sanctions which the UN Security Council would be asked to apply to Libya after Oct. 1 [see p. 39618]. However, the introduction of the package was delayed after Russia had threatened to block it in an attempt to protect its own economic interests (Libya was estimated to owe Russia some US\$3-4,000 million for construction projects and military sales during the 1970s and 1980s). Russia eventually agreed to vote for the resolution after a clause was inserted asserting "Libya's duty scrupulously to adhere to all its obligations concerning the servicing of repayment of foreign debt". The possibility that Libya might attempt to prevent the introduction of tougher sanctions by agreeing to surrender the accused men for trial in Scotland came to nothing when the Scottish lawyer representing the suspects stated in mid-October that he would never agree to their standing trial in either the UK or the USA. A subsequent Libyan offer to hold the proceedings in Switzerland was rejected by the UK.

Resolution 883, approved 11-0 with China, Djibouti, Morocco and Pakistan abstaining, specified measures to take effect on Dec. 1, with three key measures: (i) the freezing of Libyan assets abroad; (ii) a ban on sales of equipment for the country's downstream oil

Resolution 883

A ban on the export to Libya of specific oil transportation and refining equipment.

The freezing of all overseas funds and financial resources owned or controlled directly or indirectly by the Libyan government (excluding funds derived from revenues accrued from the sale of hydrocarbons and agricultural products, which had to be paid into specific accounts).

A further reduction in staff levels at Libyan diplomatic missions abroad.

The closure of all Libyan Arab Airlines (LAA) offices in all UN member states and a ban on the supply of all aircraft or aviation components or of aircraft engineering or maintenance services.

and gas sectors; and (iii) extended restrictions on the aviation industry.

The *Financial Times* of Nov. 12 stated that the new sanctions were designed to have a "psychological" rather than an immediate economic impact on Libya, particularly as they left untouched all hydrocarbons export revenues, which accounted for almost all of Libya's hard currency earnings. In addition, Libya had been given ample time to prepare for the new sanctions so that government deposits had largely been transferred from Western to Arab banks.

Initial Libyan reaction was relatively muted, but on Nov. 17 the official Jamahiriya news agency reported a threat by Libya's "revolutionary leader" Col. Moamer al Kadhafi that Libya was prepared to set light to its oil wells, oil fields and ports in a gesture of defiance to the West.

■ Last article p. 39712; reference article pp. R141-42.

TUNISIA

Announcement of election date

President Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali announced on Nov. 7 that presidential and parliamentary elections would be held on March 20, 1994.

In late October Ben Ali had announced his candidacy for the presidential election. A number of opposition parties had also announced that they would participate in the parliamentary elections.

■ Last article p. 39664; reference article p. R145.

ALGERIA

Increased anti-Islamist action - Pull-out of foreigners

A series of attacks on foreigners in September and October [see pp. 39665; 39712-13] prompted several international companies to pull out staff and dependants from Algeria during November. Foreign oil companies said that they were continuing operations as usual, but that many non-essential staff were being evacuated. The *Middle East Economic Digest* of Nov. 12 reported that 3,000 foreign residents, including 2,000 French nationals, had departed.

Security forces carried out an offensive against Islamist militants in late October and early November. The *Middle East International* of Nov. 19 reported that 30 Islamists were killed in only two days of operations at the end of October. In mid-November some 200 suspected militants were arrested during a raid on the Belcourt district of Algiers, an Islamist stronghold.

Despite the crackdown, the Islamists continued to carry out attacks in November. On Nov. 11 it was reported that six customs officers had been killed in an ambush near Tamazougha on the Moroccan border. A judge was assassinated in the coastal town of Tenes on Nov. 21 and a week later leading trade unionist Abdelhaq Benhamouda, a fierce

critic of the Islamists, narrowly escaped assassination in the eastern city of Constantine.

An Algiers court sentenced 37 Islamists to death on Nov. 16. In total, some 360 militants had been sentenced to death since the outbreak of the unrest, and a number of executions had been carried out in 1993 [see pp. 39618; 39712]. However, the independent daily *al-Khabar* reported on Nov. 25 that the authorities had suspended the executions of Islamists.

HCS offer to moderate Islamists

A Nov. 23 announcement by the ruling High Committee of State (HCS), that any "elements who respect the law" could be reintegrated into organized politics, was widely interpreted as an invitation to moderate Islamist leaders to enter into negotiations. In the past the HCS had rejected the possibility of negotiations with the banned *Front Islamique du Salut* (FIS) or other Islamist factions.

Opposition leaders had pressed for the inclusion of the FIS in discussions with the Committee for National Dialogue (CND), established by the HCS in mid-October [see p. 39712] to achieve a consensus on the transition to democracy. The CND held a number of meetings with various parties and groups in October and November, but progress was generally frustrated by divisions over the question of participation by Islamists and over the timetable for fresh elections. According to the *Middle East International* of Dec. 3, the delay in reaching a common platform led the HCS to cancel plans for a referendum on the transition to democracy scheduled to be held before the end of 1993 [see p. 39488]. The mandate of the HCS ended in December 1993 and the referendum was to contain proposals on its replacement.

French crackdown on suspected Islamists

The French authorities arrested 88 alleged supporters of the FIS, most of them in Paris, on Nov. 9 in what French officials described as a "preventive operation". Only three of the 88 were subsequently charged with terrorist-related offences. The FIS threatened to strike against French nationals and interests in a communiqué sent to the Agence France-Presse news agency on Nov. 15.

■ Last article pp. 39712-13; reference article pp. R133-34.

MOROCCO

Appointment of new non-party government

King Hassan appointed a new non-partisan government on Nov. 11. Largely composed of technocrats and political independents, the government included no representatives from the parties which had contested elections to the Chamber of Representatives in June and September 1993 [see pp. 39535-36; 39665].

King Hassan had taken the decision to appoint a non-party government after the centre-left opposition (the *Bloc Démocratique* or *kutlah*) rejected his offer to form a government. In a speech on Nov. 6, Hassan said that he had offered the *kutlah* control

New Moroccan Cabinet

Mohammed Karim Lamrani Prime Minister

Ministers of State

Moulay Ahmed Alaoui Without Portfolio
Abdellatif Filali Foreign Affairs and Co-operation

Driss Basri Interior and Information

Ministers

*Mohammed Idrissi Alami Machichi Justice
Abderrahim Harouchi Public Health

*Mohammed Saghout Finance

*Mohammed Knidri Education

*Mustapha Sahel Maritime Fishing and Merchant Marine

*Mohammed Hassad Equipment, Cadres and Vocational Training

Rachid Ghazouani Transport

Abdessalem Azihou Posts and Telecommunications

Abdelaziz Meziane Belfkih Agriculture and Land Reform

*Moulay Driss Alaoui M'Daghri Youth and Sports

*Driss Jettou, Commerce, Industry and Privatization

Abdelkebir Alaoui M'Daghri *Habous* (Religious Endowments) and Islamic Affairs

*Rafiq Haddaoui Employment and Social Affairs

*Abdellatif Guerraoui Energy and Mines

Mohammed Allal Sinaceur Cultural Affairs

*Driss Toulali Housing

*Mourad Cherif Foreign Trade, Foreign Investment and Handicrafts

*Serge Berdugo Tourism

Junior ministers: Additional Cabinet members, with the rank of junior minister, were Abdessadek Rabi as Secretary-General of the Government, seven ministers-delegate to the Prime Minister (including Azziman—see text), and one deputy to the Interior Minister.

*New appointment.

*Altered responsibilities.

of 19 ministries in the new government, but that they had refused because these did not include the foreign affairs, interior or justice portfolios. According to Hassan, the former ruling centre-right coalition (the *Entente Nationale* or *wifaq*), which had emerged as the strongest bloc after the elections, had "begged" to stay out of the government in order to allow its member parties time to gather their strength and to restructure.

On Nov. 9 Hassan had announced that Mohammed Karim Lamrani would remain as Prime Minister. Lamrani, 74, had been appointed as head of the interim government selected by Hassan in August 1992 to oversee elections [see p. 39071]. He had previously been Prime Minister in 1971-72, 1983-84 and 1984-86.

In the new government three Ministers of State, all of whom were close to Hassan, retained their posts. The government included the first Jewish minister since the late 1950s. Serge Berdugo, president of the Jewish Communities Council which repre-

sented the country's 8,000 Jews, was appointed as Tourism Minister.

The London-based human rights organization Amnesty International welcomed the appointment of Omar Azziman as a Minister-Delegate to the Prime Minister with responsibility for Human Rights. In a letter to Azziman shortly after his appointment, the organization called for the Moroccan government to "turn a page on the past" by releasing all prisoners of conscience. Azziman was a co-founder of the *Organization Marocaine des Droits de l'Homme*.

Economic and social development plan

Lamrani presented a new economic and social development plan to the Chamber of Representatives on Nov. 23.

The plan included new measures to achieve "high and continuous growth and to create the largest number of jobs". Towards this end the privatization programme would continue and investment laws would be simplified. In addition, the Casablanca stock exchange would be overhauled and the banking and tax systems reformed.

The Chamber approved the new government plan on Nov. 27 by 202 votes to 118.

■ Last article p. 39713; reference article p. R142.

GULF CO-OPERATION COUNCIL

Agreement on development of Peninsular Shield Force

Defence ministers of the six member countries of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC), meeting in Abu Dhabi on Nov. 8-9, agreed to strengthen security co-operation and develop the Peninsular Shield Force, the organization's Saudi-based rapid deployment force [see pp. 34265; 37636].

In a statement to journalists, Kuwaiti Defence Minister Shaikh Ali Sabah as-Salim as-Sabah said that GCC ministers had agreed that each country would participate in the Peninsular Shield Force by contributing troop units on condition that a unified command was established and that its chair was assumed in turn by each member state. It was accepted that the command itself would continue to be based in Saudi Arabia. Agreement was also reached on financing the Force through a special budget administered by the GCC secretariat.

■ Last article pp. 39534-35; reference article p. R147.

INTERNATIONAL

GATT

EU-US talks

Inconclusive talks were held in Washington on Nov. 22-24 between Sir Leon Brittan, the European Union (EU, previously the EC) Commissioner for External Economic Affairs and Trade, and Mickey Kantor, the US Representative for Trade Negotiations.

The talks were intended to resolving differences obstructing a final accord on the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). At a press conference afterwards both sides acknowledged that while there had been little progress in settling key disputes relating to agriculture, film distribution and aircraft subsidies, they had discussed "viable alternatives" which they agreed to pursue at further talks on Dec. 1-2.

Unconfirmed reports on Nov. 20-21 said that EU and US officials had held secret talks in Brussels ahead of the Washington meeting in an attempt to iron out remaining differences over subsidised food exports and market access for agricultural produce.

In a rare show of unanimity EU Foreign Ministers meeting in Brussels on Nov. 8 had blamed the USA for delaying the GATT negotiations by refusing to resume talks until after the Nov. 17 vote by the US Congress on the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) [see pp. 39728-29]. In a strongly worded statement EU ministers also reproached the USA and Japan for failing to match the EU's offer on market access and the reduction of industrial tariffs.

Japanese opposition to liberalization of rice markets

Reports in mid-November warned that the chances of meeting the Dec. 15 Uruguay Round deadline were threatened by Japan's continued resistance to the opening of its rice markets [see pp. 38746; 39250]. Japanese officials reiterated, during talks with Brittan in Tokyo on Nov. 14-15, their opposition to any "tarification" of rice (along lines proposed in the December 1991 Dunkel draft—see p. 38746).

A revised schedule of tariff reductions submitted by Japan to GATT on Nov. 19 omitted any offer to cut tariffs in the three most sensitive areas—alcoholic spirits, leather, and forest and agricultural products including rice. However, Japan offered an average 60 per cent reduction in tariffs on some 6,600 manufactured products.

Opting out by USA of new international taxation rules

Prospects of reaching a viable accord on services receded in late November after the USA announced its intention to opt out of new international rules on taxation in order to treat foreign services companies differently from local ones for tax purposes.

■ Last article pp. 39714-15; reference article pp. R151-52.

OPEC

Oil ministers' meeting

Oil ministers from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), gathering

in Vienna for their 95th ministerial meeting on Nov. 23-24, decided not to renegotiate a cut in the organization's present ceiling of 24,500,000 barrels per day (bpd) [for 94th ministerial meeting see p. 39538]. The decision triggered an immediate fall in oil prices which plummeted to their lowest level in five years, standing at around US\$14 a barrel, well below the cartel's reference price of US\$21 a barrel.

OPEC oil ministers, however, attributed the fall in prices to the lack of restraint shown by non-OPEC producers, chiefly Norway and the UK. A communiqué at the end of the session stated that "the conference does not consider that OPEC alone should continue to bear the burden of balancing supply and demand". At a press conference afterwards OPEC's Secretary-General Subroto also indicated that the decision not to cut total OPEC output, despite the risk of prices going down "for a while", had been influenced by expectations of a cold winter boosting demand and eventually forcing oil prices up.

Some oil ministers hinted that the consensus in favour of maintaining the current ceiling was motivated by concern to avoid acrimonious divisions over the re-allocation of individual quotas which had overshadowed recent meetings [see pp. 39538; 39580; 39666-67]. The Iranian Oil Minister, Gholamreza Agazadeh, gave an insight into simmering differences over quotas, saying that while a cut of between 1,000,000 and 1,500,000 bpd might have had a substantial impact on prices, such a reduction was "not easy to divide among the countries". In June Kuwait had pulled out of OPEC's production ceiling mechanism after refusing to accept its individual quota [see pp. 39346; 39538].

New president

Qatar's Energy and Industry Minister Abdullah ibn Hamad al-Atiyyah was on Nov. 23 named president of the OPEC Conference for the next six months. He succeeded Gabon's Oil Minister Jean Ping.

■ Last article p. 39666-67; reference article p. R155.

DISARMAMENT

Ukrainian ratification of START I

Ukraine conditionally ratified the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty I (START I) [see p. 38320] on Nov. 18, thus partially fulfilling its obligations under the 1992 Lisbon protocol [see p. 38937]. Ukraine's decision to do so ended months of intense diplomatic pressure during which Ukraine had resolutely held out as the last of the four post-Soviet nuclear states withholding accession to START I [see p. 39296-97]. [For ratification of START I by Russia, Kazakhstan and Byelorussia see pp. 39216; 39345].

In a resolution approved by 254 votes to nine, deputies of Ukraine's Supreme Council

agreed to destroy 42 per cent of the country's 1,656 warheads and "gradually" to dismantle the rest of its nuclear weapons. Under START I, 130 of Ukraine's 176 nuclear missiles were due to be destroyed, of which 20 SS-19 missiles had already been de-activated. However, START I allowed Ukraine to retain 46 highly sophisticated SS-24 missiles which it was not expected to surrender in the near future.

Among the conditions for Ukraine's eventual disarmament outlined in the resolution were Western security guarantees, financial assistance with weapons dismantling, and compensation for the agreed transfer of Ukrainian nuclear weapons to Russia [see pp. 38655; 38825; 38878; 38937]. While deputies chose not to specify exact sums sought by Ukraine for weapons dismantling and compensation, reports indicated that the figure stood between US\$2,000 million and US\$5,000 million. In October the USA had offered US\$175 million to Ukraine for weapons demolition and clean-up costs [see p. 39713].

The resolution also stipulated that these conditions would have to be fulfilled before Ukraine would accede to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) as required by the Lisbon protocol.

Russian rejection of "no first use" doctrine

Russian President Boris Yeltsin on Nov. 3 formally abandoned the doctrine of "no first use" of nuclear weapons. Traditionally, "no first use" was a hallmark of former Soviet nuclear policy, and had been held up publicly in comparison with Western defence alliances which had no such doctrine. Under the new policy Russia undertook not to use nuclear weapons (except in self-defence) against any non-nuclear state which had signed the NPT, unless the non-nuclear state was allied to or had an agreement with a nuclear state.

Yeltsin also approved new guidelines permitting the deployment of Russian troops abroad. Observers noted, however, that this measure merely formalized the current involvement of Russian troops in conflicts in several former Soviet republics [see in particular p. 39749 for involvement in Georgia].

UK curbs on Trident submarine

The UK Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind announced in London on Nov. 16 that the total number of warheads carried by the UK's Trident strategic missile submarines would be reduced to a number "significantly fewer than 96" per submarine. The previous number had been set at 128 warheads per submarine, or eight for each of 16 Trident missiles.

Explaining his decision Rifkind said that while complete disarmament was "a desirable ultimate goal", it was essential for the UK to retain full-scale strategic nuclear weapons as well as less potent atomic weapons. The UK's Trident deterrent, he claimed, would be adapted to fulfil both functions.

■ Last article p. 39713; reference article pp. R150-51.

COCOM

Dismantling of COCOM

Officials from 17 member countries of the Co-ordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls (COCOM), meeting in The Hague, Netherlands, on Nov. 16, agreed to disband the organization and replace it with a new scheme open to the former communist states of central and eastern Europe. Officials confirmed afterwards that Russia, and possibly also China, would be invited to join the new body which was expected to become operational in April 1994. [For first participation in COCOM by former Soviet republics, in November 1991, see p. 39218.]

COCOM was established in 1950 with the aim of preventing the export of sensitive military technology to the then communist adversaries of the Western bloc and its allies. All 16 members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) except Iceland were parties to COCOM, as were Australia and Japan. Since 1989, however, COCOM had shortened the list of restricted technologies, lifted export controls to Hungary and partially relaxed restrictions on Bulgaria and the Czech Republic. More recently it was reported also to have lifted restrictions on the export of military technology to Russia.

Reports said that the new scheme would continue to monitor the export of sensitive military and dual-use technology, although it was not clear which countries were likely to be affected by any future ban.

■ Last article p. 39218; reference article pp. R149.

UNITED NATIONS

1994-95 programme budget

The UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali on Nov. 5 announced a programme budget for the biennium 1994-95 totalling US\$2,749 million, compared with a revised appropriation of US\$2,468 million for 1992-93. The proposed budget represented real growth of about 1 per cent.

US commitment on arrears payments

The USA said on Nov. 16 that it was committed to paying its current assessments and arrears to the UN, and that it expected to pay more than US\$1,000 million in regular budget and peacekeeping assessments by the end of 1993. In October the USA had paid just over half its outstanding dues [see p. 39715]. While acknowledging that its failure to meet its financial obligations had damaged the UN, the USA warned that continuing increases in UN assessed contributions and support for voluntary programmes could not be taken for granted.

By Nov. 5 only 66 of the UN's 184 member states had paid their dues in full; 45 had paid nothing at all.

■ Last article p. 39715; reference article p. R156.

FAO

Election of new Director-General

The 27th session of the conference of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) held in Rome on Nov. 6-20, elected Jacques Diouf (Senegal) as the agency's next Director-General; he would succeed Edouard Saouma (Lebanon) who had held the post for three consecutive six-year terms [see pp. 27446 for his initial election in 1975; for his re-election in 1981 and 1987 see pp. 31314; 36184].

Diouf's election had been made possible after the withdrawal before the sixth (and final) ballot of the front-runner, Rafael Morena (Chile), one of nine candidates for the post. Reports said that Chile and Senegal had agreed to support each other's candidate if necessary to ensure that the incumbent came from the Third World. Diouf's final victory was secured when he defeated Geoffrey Miller (Australia) who was favoured by the USA and other Western countries.

Diouf, 55, the first African to head the FAO, had been Senegal's permanent representative at the UN since May 1991 and was previously secretary-general of the Central Bank for West African States. He was due to assume his new post on Jan. 1, 1994.

Readmission of South Africa

The FAO on Nov. 10 became the first UN specialized agency to readmit South Africa, which had withdrawn from the organization in 1964.

■ Reference article p. R151.

UNHCR

Report on world refugees

A report, *State of the World's Refugees*, published by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on Nov. 9 showed that the number of world refugees (those who had crossed international borders), had increased by 10,000 a day in 1992, and had risen overall from 2,500,000 in 1970 to 18,200,000 at the start of 1993. An additional 24,000,000 people were "displaced" persons who had fled their homes but were still within the borders of their own home countries. The report called urgently for the root causes of persecution and displacement to be addressed and warned that "the climate of receptivity for refugees has cooled in many asylum countries".

Reappointment of Ogata

Sadako Ogata was reappointed by the UN General Assembly on Oct. 4 as the UN High Commissioner for Refugees for a five-year term beginning on Jan. 1, 1994. Ogata, a Japanese national and the first woman to hold the post, had been appointed in December 1990

to complete the tenure of former incumbent Thorvald Stoltenberg [see p. 37931].

■ Reference article p. R157.

WAR CRIMES

Opening of war crimes tribunal

The international tribunal established by the UN Security Council in May 1993 to try those accused of committing war crimes in the former Yugoslavia since 1991 [see p. 39490], held its inaugural session in The Hague, Netherlands, on Nov. 17. The tribunal, comprising 11 judges, was allocated an annual budget of US\$32,000,000, although this had yet to be officially approved.

US ruling on Demjanjuk

A US federal appeals court on Nov. 17 ruled that the US Department of Justice had committed "prosecutorial misconduct" by ordering the extradition of John Demjanjuk to Israel in 1987 to stand trial for war crimes. Demjanjuk had returned to the USA in September shortly after being acquitted in Israel [see pp. 39581; 39619; 39667].

Fixing of Touvier trial location

A Paris appeals court on Nov. 3 ruled that the suspected war criminal Paul Touvier should stand trial in Versailles, a "neutral" location, rather than in Lyon, the scene of his alleged crimes. In October French civil groups had launched a campaign for Touvier to be tried in Lyon [see p. 39715].

■ Last article p. 39715; reference article pp. R158-59.

ENVIRONMENT

LDC meeting

The annual meeting of the 1972 London Dumping Convention (LDC), attended by 42 of the 71 signatory countries, approved on Nov. 12 by 37 votes to none with five abstentions (Belgium, China, France, Russia and the UK) a Danish proposal for a total and definitive ban on the dumping of nuclear waste at sea. [See pp. 34524-25 for introduction of moratorium in 1983 and its extension in 1984 and 1985.]

The decision, greeted by the environmentalist organization Greenpeace as a major step forward in the battle to protect the world's oceans, left those abstaining (and the 29 signatory countries not present) a further 100 days to decide whether to adhere to the agreement. The abstention by France (which in practice had ceased dumping spent nuclear fuel at sea in 1969) was reportedly based on the argument that the issue should be re-examined in 15 years' time, with the benefit of better scientific data, and that in the interim an extension of the existing moratorium should suffice. Russia's delegation was understood to have reiterated the position expressed after the dumping of submarine nuclear waste in the Sea of Japan in October [see

p. 39715], that Russia could only support a ban if it received sufficient financial and technical assistance on other methods of nuclear waste disposal.

■ Last article p. 39715; reference article p. R151.

AVIATION

Air crash in Macedonia

All but one of the 116 passengers and crew on board an airliner chartered by the Macedonian carrier Avioimpex died when it crashed on Nov. 21 near the south-western resort town of Ohrid.

The Soviet-made Yak-42, leased from the Russian airline Aeroflot, was on a flight from Geneva to Skopje when it was diverted to Ohrid because of a blizzard at Skopje. The crash was Macedonia's second air disaster in 1993—in March a Fokker 100 leased by the Macedonian company Palair had crashed after take-off from Skopje, killing 79 people.

■ Last article p. 39619; 39667; 39715; reference article pp. R148-49.

SPACE RESEARCH

Agreement on joint US-Russian space station

The US and Russian space agencies announced on Nov. 4 a plan for a joint space station.

Under a three-phase construction schedule (i) from 1995 US space shuttles would visit the *Mir* Russian space station; (ii) beginning in 1998 both countries would fly five missions each to assemble the rudiments of a separate, much larger and more powerful space laboratory; (iii) by 2001 an international space station, with Japanese, Canadian and European Space Agency involvement, would be completed.

Costs were expected to be below those for the US plan for its own *Freedom* station, itself revised down to US\$19,400 million, by a margin of \$3-4,000 million [see also pp. 39347; 39443].

Shuttle flight

The US space shuttle *Columbia* returned to Earth on Dec. 1 after a 14-day flight dedicated to biological sciences. It logged 9,400,000 km and completed 225 orbits, the longest shuttle mission to date.

■ Last article p. 39619; reference article pp. R155-56.

IN BRIEF

CSCE: US President Bill Clinton on Nov. 3 ratified the "Open Skies" treaty, signed by member states of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) in March 1992 [see p. 38841], which permitted all parties to conduct non-military reconnaissance flights over each other's territories. The treaty had been approved by the US Congress on Aug. 6.

INDEX TO THIS ISSUE

AFGHANISTAN Anti-terrorist agreement with Egypt 39738
ALBANIA Reports of corruption - Government changes - Visit of Greek Foreign Affairs Minister 39745
ALGERIA Increased anti-Islamist action - Pull-out of foreigners - HCS offer to moderate Islamists - French crackdown on suspected Islamists 39760
ANGOLA Agreement on troop withdrawal - Rising death toll 39724
APEC Ministerial meeting - Heads of government meeting 39742
ARGENTINA Conclusion of "Democratic Pact" 39733
ARMENIA Government victory on privatisation 39749
AUSTRALIA Deterioration in relations with Malaysia 39740
Formulation of Aboriginal land rights legislation - Hunt for serial killer 39741
AVIATION Air crash in Macedonia 39763
AZERBAIJAN Oil agreement with Western companies - Appointments - Reconstitution of communist party - Nagorno Karabakh 39749
BANGLADESH Prime Minister's visit to Nepal 39743
BELAU Approval of Compact of Free Association 39742
BELIZE Resignation of Governor-General 39731
BOLIVIA Banzer's retirement from politics 39733
BOSNIA-HERCEGOVINA Resumption of negotiations - Threat of aid withdrawal - Resumption of aid provision - Allegations of UNPROFOR misconduct - Arrest of top Bosnian Army officer - Tension in Sarajevo after crackdown on Croat militia leaders - Renewal of Sarajevo bombardment - Muslim-Croat fighting - Fall of Vares - Destruction of Mostar Old Bridge - New Bosnian government 39743
BRAZIL Congressional corruption investigation 39734
BURUNDI Restoration of government 39721
BYELARUS Disagreements over economy 39749
CÔTE D'IVOIRE Tension with Ghana over soccer violence 39719
CAMBODIA Installation of Royal Government - Extension of UNTAC presence 39740
CAMEROON Harassment of opposition leader 39725
CANADA Inauguration of new government - Appointment of Cabinet - Recognition of Bloc Québécois as official opposition 39727
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC New government - Status of Bokassa 39719
CHAD New Prime Minister 39720
CHILE Sentence in Letelier murder trial 39733
CHINA Adoption of new reform document - Relations with USA - Relations with Russia and Germany - Relations with Taiwan 3935
COCOM Dismantling of COCOM 39762
COLOMBIA Murder of Senate vice-president 39733
COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES Collapse of rouble zone 39747
CONGO Renewed unrest 39719
COSTA RICA Differences with Nicaragua over local travel permits 39732
CROATIA Tudjman peace initiative - Tudjman pledge to Bosnian Croats - Acquittal of fascist leader 39744
CUBA UN vote on US embargo - Tourist development - Threats against tourists - Outflow by boat of disaffected skilled workers and professionals - Defection of athletes - Floods 39729
CYPRUS Progress of UN settlement effort - Defence agreement with Greece 39755
CZECH REPUBLIC Controversy over defamation law - New committee on foreign policy 39746
DENMARK Elections 39756
DISARMAMENT Russian rejection of "no first use" doctrine - UK curbs on Trident submarine 39762
EGYPT Anti-terrorist agreement with Afghanistan 39738
Allegations of human rights violations 39759
EL SALVADOR Uprising in political violence - Arrival of UN mission - Prison riot 39732
ENVIRONMENT LDC meeting 39763
EQUATORIAL GUINEA General election 39719
ERITREA Famine fear 39725
ESTONIA Law on cultural autonomy - IMF credits 39750
EUROPEAN UNION Entry into force of Maastricht Treaty - Report of Court of Auditors - Findings on fraud and inefficiency - Tighter banking supervision measures - Criticism of Commission proposals on economy and unemployment 39750
FAO Election of new Director-General - Readmission of South Africa 39763
FRANCE Constitutional amendment supporting asylum law - Senate approval of employment law - Pronouncement on Tapie - Further industrial unrest - Ban on Muslim headscarves - New leader of Green Party 39752

GABON Return of exiled opposition leader 39725
GATT EU-US talks - Japanese opposition to liberalization of rice markets - Opting out by USA of new international taxation rules 39761
GEORGIA Crackdown on Zviadists - Flight of Gamsakhurdia - Arrival of Russian marines - Proposed Abkhaz referendum on unification with Russia - Murder of separatist leader - Foundation of pro-Shevardnadze party 39749
GERMANY Relations with China 39735
Withdrawal of CDU presidential candidate - Approval of 1994 budget - HIV-contaminated blood scandal - Compensation for expropriated property - Unveiling of war memorial - Grams affair aftermath - RAF trial 39753
GREECE New opposition leader - Arrest of US diplomats - Defence agreement with Cyprus 39755
GUATEMALA Suspension of referendum - Discovery of graves 39731
GULF CO-OPERATION COUNCIL Agreement on development of Peninsular Shield Force 39761
HAITI Non-return of Aristide 39730
HONDURAS Presidential and congressional elections 39731
HUNGARY Renewal of media dispute - Party developments 39746
INDIA State elections - Rise in external debts - Foreign relations - Developments in states 39739
INDONESIA Abolition of national lottery - New Fretilin leader 39741
IRAN Allegations of human rights violations - Visit by Indonesian President - Relations with France, Sweden and USA - release of German businessman 39759
IRAQ Agreement on long-term weapons monitoring - Investigations into chemical weapons attack - UN human rights report 39758
IRELAND, NORTHERN Contacts with IRA 39754
ISRAEL *see also* MIDDLE EAST Defeat of Kollek in Jerusalem election - Rabin-Clinton talks - Reports of gas deals with Egypt and Qatar - Visit by Turkish Foreign Minister - Historic visit by Spanish monarch 39757
ITALY Municipal elections - Arrest of secret service officials - Charges against Scalfaro - Identification of Falcone killers 39751
JAMAICA Commuting of death sentences 39731
JAPAN Development of construction scandal - Arrest of leading businessman - Implication of Hosokawa in Sagawa Kyubin scandal - Approval of political reform bill by lower house - Relations with USA 39737
JORDAN Legislative elections - Armed attack on military post 39758
KAZAKHSTAN First round of mass privatisation 39738
KENYA Resumption of international aid 39721
KIRGIZSTAN Abolition of censorship 39738
KOREA, NORTH Continued tension over nuclear inspections issue 39736
KOREA, SOUTH Imprisonment of Hyundai founder - Launch of joint military exercise - Visit by Japanese Prime Minister - Apology for past actions - Talks with US President 39736
LAOS Visit of Vietnam President 39743
LEBANON Violence in south - Assassination of Palestinian official 39758
LIBERIA Delay in transition process 39719
LIBYA Imposition of tougher sanctions 39760
LITHUANIA President's meeting with Yeltsin 39756
MACEDONIA Alleged plot by ethnic Albanians 39745
MALAWI Repeal of life presidency - Cabinet changes - Resumption of EU aid 39723
MALAYSIA Election of Anwar as UMNO deputy president - Approval of *sharia* legislation by Kelantan legislature - Deterioration in relations with Australia 39740
MALDIVES Cabinet reshuffle 39740
MALI Suspension of IMF and World Bank aid - Cabinet changes 39720
MAURITANIA Cabinet reshuffle - Date for municipal elections 39720
MAURITIUS Split in MMM - Cabinet reshuffle 39725
MEXICO Selection of presidential candidates 39729
MIDDLE EAST Israeli-Palestinian negotiations - Diplomatic developments - Reported progress in Jordan-Israel negotiations - Continued violence in occupied territories 39756
MOLDOVA Appointment of Ambassador to USA 39756
MOROCCO Appointment of new non-party government - Economic and social development plan 39760
MOZAMBIQUE Progress in peace process 39724
NAFTA US congressional approval 39728
NETHERLANDS ANTILLES Curaçao referendum -

Resignation of Prime Minister 39731
NEW ZEALAND General election - Adoption of new electoral system 39741
NICARAGUA Inter-party agreement on constitutional reforms - Disarmament process - Differences with Costa Rica over local travel permits 39732
NIGER Impasse in peace process 39720
NIGERIA Military takeover 39718
OPEC Oil ministers' meeting 39761
ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY Establishment of Peace Fund 39725
PAKISTAN Election of President - Arrest of Murtaza Bhutto - Inquiry into fire - Talks with USA - Agreement with IMF and World Bank 39738
PANAMA Appointment of Foreign Minister 39734
PERU Result of constitutional referendum 39733
PHILIPPINES Ceasefire with MNLF - Presidential visit to USA 39741
PORTUGAL Torture allegations 39752
PREFERENTIAL TRADE AREA Common Market treaty 39725
PUERTO RICO Referendum on statehood 39729
ROMANIA Pro-reform demonstrations - Refusal of entry to former king - Restoration of most-favoured-nation trading status by USA 39746
RUSSIA Relations with China 39735
draft constitution - Yeltsin's criticism of government - Cancellation of early presidential poll - Registration of parties for general election - Controversy after election broadcasts - Restrictions on activity of foreign banks - Submission of final budget for 1993 - New military doctrine 39747
SAUDI ARABIA Agreement with Shia dissidents 39759
SENEGAL Arrests of activists 39725
SINGAPORE Suspension of Trade Development Board executive 39743
SLOVAKIA Cabinet changes 39746
SOLOMON ISLANDS Dismissal and resignations of ministers 39743
SOMALIA Reversal of UN policy 39721
SOUTH AFRICA Interim Constitution - Abolition of Section 29 of ISA - Trial of Gqozo 39722
SPACE RESEARCH Agreement on joint US-Russian space station - Shuttle flight 39763
SPAIN Ending of social pact talks - Resignation of Interior Minister - Provincial and municipal government crisis - Attack on Basque police chief 39752
SRI LANKA LTTE offensive - 1994 budget - Ruling against appointment of UNP members as provincial chief ministers 39739
ST KITTS NEVIS General election 39734
SUDAN Promise of elections - Concern for opposition leader 39721
SWAZILAND New government 39724
SWITZERLAND Referendum 39756
TAIWAN Local elections - Merger of opposition parties - Relations with China 39735
TANZANIA CCM decision in favour of separate Tanganyika government 39721
TUNISIA Announcement of election date 39760
TURKEY New measures against Kurds - Re-election of Ciller as DYP leader - Cancellation of government decrees - 1994 budget - Demirel's visit to Poland 39755
UGANDA Return of Okello - Election date 39722
UKRAINE Economic crisis - New electoral law - Publication of draft constitution 39750
UNHCR Report on world refugees 39763
UNITED KINGDOM 1994-95 budget 39753
UNITED NATIONS 1994-95 programme budget 39762
UNITED STATES Gubernatorial and mayoral elections - Resignation of Deputy Secretary of State - Foreign policy statement - Enactment of "Brady bill" - Senate approval of omnibus crime bill - Senate subpoena of Packwood diaries - Supreme Court ruling on sexual harassment - Appeal court ruling on homosexual naval student 39726
Relations with China 39735
Relations with Japan 39738
URUGUAY Resignation of minister 39734
VENEZUELA Allegations of coup conspiracy 39732
VIETNAM Aid conference - Prison sentences on Buddhist monks - Relations with China 39740
Visit of President to Laos 39743
WAR CRIMES Opening of first war crimes tribunal - US ruling on Demjanjuk - Fixing of Touvier trial location 39763
WEU Inauguration of Eurocorps 39756
YEMEN Deterioration in north-south relations 39759
YUGOSLAVIA Crackdown on ultra-nationalist group - Arkan's new political party - Re-establishment of Montenegrin Orthodox Church 39745
ZIMBABWE Reports of military cuts 39725